

Hi Towne Singers -

As promised, here are the highlights from the last Board Meeting on August 18th:

- a) The Board confirmed Beth Richey for the position of Guest Conductor for the fall season.
- b) It was agreed that Jeremy should play a lead role in auditioning the Chamber Group this season.
- c) Kellye reported on the progress of the Artistic Committee. The preliminary storyline and a partial list of songs was presented. Other good progress has been made in set design, poster design.
- d) Fee Bundling: The option of lumping music fees in with the monthly dues was discussed. We decided not to do this, as we need the music dues up front to handle expenses. Also, any mid-season drop-outs could short-change us on the music received.
- e) Pitch Testing: The Board agreed to adopt a policy that prospective members under go a 'pitch-matching' test. This is not considered an audition. See attachment for more info.
- f) Accompanist: Several excellent accompanist options were discussed. Board consensus was that Lance Merrill (former TS accompanist) would be the best option at this time.
- g) Financial: Total funds in bank are about \$13,000. This is down a few thousand from same time last year.
- h) Rehearsal Scenarios: It was agreed to resume our traditional break/snack format, and not use the auxiliary room for snacks; it's too hard to get people back together (see more info on this below).
- i) Concert Budget: Dick Emerson will put together the holiday concert budget for approval by the Board at the next meeting.
- j) New Members: A discussion ensued as to whether we should open up membership in the fall. The decision on this is deferred. Section Leaders are doing a survey on returning members.
- k) Eric Whitacre: The commission with Eric Whitacre was clarified. Our contract for the world premiere performance of 'Seal Lullaby' had no connection with Mark Aaron or Bel Air Presbyterian Church; we will perform it next Spring as planned.

Other News (since the Board meeting)

- a) Beth, Kellye, Jeremy, and I had a very good kick-off meeting for this season. The music repertoire for the concert has been finalized, and the music ordered.
- b) The calendar for the fall season has been finalized (thanks to Bev Jones for preparing), and is attached. Note that the auditions for solo and small group numbers will be held on November 10.
- c) Chamber Group: the size of Chamber Group will be between 20 and 24 singers this year (as a function of section balance/blend). Auditions will be held after the first rehearsal (Monday the 10th, from 9:30pm to 10:30pm). Jeremy and Beth will collaborate on the auditioning process/selections.
- d) Dues/Fees: Same as last holiday season: \$26 per month for 4 months, and \$30 for music fee. Total for season is \$134. Music fee includes any part-CDs that are to be provided.
- e) Rehearsal Format: Start time at 7:15 (in seats). No snacks before rehearsal. Break/announcements at 8:15 (drinks and simple snacks in the main room). Remainder of rehearsal from 8:30 to 9:30.

I think it's going to be a really enjoyable and rewarding season. We'll get any new information out to everyone as it develops.

Regards, Ken

8-17-2007

New member pitch-matching exercise:

New members are not auditioned; musical experience, the ability to read music, and voice quality are not 'membership criteria'.

Each new member does undergo a pitch-matching exercise. The exercise is intended to verify that he/she has the basic pitch-matching capability needed to be a successful member of the choir, and to ensure that the member is assigned to the right section. If pitch-matching capability is lacking, they will be encouraged to seek some instruction, and reapply at a later date.

The exercise will be conducted by the Conductor or the Assistant Conductor.

Towne Singers Holiday Concert 2007
Rehearsal Schedule
Revised 8/24/07

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
Mon Sept 10	1 st Rehearsal	7:15pm to 9:30	RBCC
Mon Sept 17	rehearsal	7:15pm to 9:30	RBCC
Mon Sept 24	rehearsal	7:15pm to 9:30	RBCC
Mon Oct 01	rehearsal	7:15pm to 9:30	RBCC
Sat Oct 06	SECTIONAL	Alto/Sop 10am to 11:30 Bass/Tenor 12pm to 1:30	Tba
Mon Oct 08	rehearsal	7:15pm to 9:30	RBCC
Mon Oct 15	rehearsal	7:15pm to 9:30	RBCC
Mon Oct 22	rehearsal	7:15pm to 9:30	RBCC
Sat Oct 27	SECTIONAL	Alto/Sop 12pm to 1:30 Bass/Tenor 10am to 11:30	Tba
Mon Oct 29	rehearsal	7:15pm to 9:30	RBCC
Mon Nov 05	rehearsal	7:15pm to 9:30	RBCC
Sat Nov 10	Solo/Grp Auditions	10am to 1:30pm	Tba
Mon Nov 12	rehearsal	7:15pm to 9:30	RBCC
Mon Nov 19	rehearsal	7:15pm to 9:30	RBCC
Mon Nov 26	rehearsal **	7:00pm to 10:00	LPAC
<i>Saturday Dec 1</i>	<i>Dress Rehearsal**</i>	<i>10am to 2pm</i>	<i>LPAC</i>
<i>Sat Dec 1</i>	<i>Concert</i>	<i>7pm call 6pm</i>	<i>LPAC</i>
<i>Sun Dec 2</i>	<i>Concert</i>	<i>4:30pm call 3:30pm</i>	<i>LPAC</i>

** = Mandatory Rehearsal

OTHER DATES

<i>Monday Sept 10</i>	<i>Chamber auditions (all parts) after rehearsal</i>		
<i>Monday Sept 24</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>6pm</i>	<i>RBCC</i>
<i>Monday Oct 29</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>6pm</i>	<i>RBCC</i>
<i>Monday Nov 19</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>6pm</i>	<i>RBCC</i>

RBCC - ROGER BARKLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
 LPAC - LANTERMAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
 Tba - To be announced