

7 July 2007 Board Meeting

The meeting was well attended by both Board members and choir members.

Introductory remarks by Ken Kimball regarding rehearsal season and concert. The Board reviewed and discussed feedback from choir members and audience members regarding the concert.

A contract was signed with Eric Whitacre for performance of original music in 2008 in the amount of \$13,000 to be paid in two installments. First payment of \$6500.00 has already been made. Second payment due in January. Grant of \$7,000.00 received from Los Angeles County Arts Commission is being used to help pay for contract. Towne Singers will match funds with donations from other sources.

Handout regarding general budget information was distributed to members. Dick Emerson reviewed the budget. We currently have \$11,000 in the bank. We will be sending payments out in the amount of approximately \$5,000. Mr. Emerson explained the budget items and how they are detailed and categorized in the budget. Towne Singers are not receiving sufficient funds to meet expenses.

Financial results from the Spring concert at the Alex were presented. Individual budget items were detailed and budgeted amounts were compared with actual spent amounts. Concert cost was more than anticipated and expenses were not covered by concert revenue.

One item of interest was that dues were collected only for five months rather than the usual six months for spring concert. Board members were unable to identify how the error originated.

Kelly presented preliminary plan for Holiday Concert. Theme will be *We Need A Little Christmas* for a fun, family oriented show. Recent feedback from the choir indicates that members would prefer more active participation in the concerts. In order to balance the production, the Artistic Committee proposed limiting the Chamber Choir to only two songs, ensembles/solos approximately four numbers and allowing the full choir to sing about twelve numbers. There will not be a children's choir for this concert, but the Artistic Committee is considering having children of the choir members join the Towne Singers for one number. Current plan for Holiday concert is to have two performances at the Lanterman Auditorium. Board members agreed to present two concerts.

Concerns about the rehearsal venue (Roger Barkley Community Center) were discussed. Members expressed problems and advantages with the Community Center. A motion to remain at RBCC was passed by the Board Members. Ken will send highlights of discussion to general choir members.

The possibility of one or two intermediate performances or choral festivals was introduced by Ken Kimball. Production of a choral festival was considered too ambitious

for 2008, however board members were agreeable to considering something in 2009. Descanso Gardens was mentioned as a possible venue for an intermediate concert. Members were encouraged to find ways for the Towne Singers to perform within the community. Kellye Wallett suggested that Towne Singers consider learning a basic repertoire such as we did on the British Isles Tour in 2005.

Jeremy Satchell has been the unofficial assistant conductor for the Towne Singers for the past two years. He assists choir members in many ways including sectionals for all parts. Board members discussed providing compensation for his contributions. Ken Kimball will discuss this with Jeremy and report back to the Board.

Ken Kimball presented the need for a production manager to oversee all areas of the production. This would create a more equitable load for all production areas and would help to avoid budget overruns. Members were reminded that a production timeline and schedule has been used in the past and could be utilized again.

Tape ran out.