

DRAFT - September 15, 2024 - Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors, The Master Singers of Lexington

Attending: Adam Grossman, Music Director; Tom Hanold; Grant Hicks; Clark Jarvis, Treasurer; Becky Linton, President; Haris Papamichael; Lydia Light; Lindsey Nicholson, Secretary; Alison Weaver.

1. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

- Fixed one error in Bob's name (had misspelled Halliday).
- Minutes were then approved.

2. Music Director's report

- The new piece is almost completely on time and here.
- We've accepted one person so far in auditions and hearing another person next week (a soprano).
- Brochure and flyers look great!
- Adam hasn't talked to Angela Carpenter yet but will reach out to her in the coming weeks; he'll ask if they need a separate room for the pops concert. Becky also needs her bio/qualifications for the grant application, so Adam will ask about that.

3. Treasurer's report

- Not much to report; we've had a few expenses including rent and a music bill.
- Other than that, we are in good shape to start paying salaries; Adam and Eric will be paid this week.
- Clark is going to talk to his friend about recording this week; he should know more by rehearsal next week.

4. Fundraising letter

- Becky has created the appeal letter with input from Alison and Lydia.
- Becky will print them/get them printed and Clark will bring labels this week to rehearsal.
- Alison has offered to help get these out, ideally by the end of the week.
- Clark will provide a letter for everyone in the chorus, which we will plan to mail via snail mail.
- Becky will plan to mention this on Wed in rehearsal, sharing that we're mailing out a fundraising letter and asking folks to keep an eye on when they get the mailing so we know when it arrives.

5. LCC grant

- Becky has begun work on this grant for the pops concert.
- Last year they gave anywhere from 150 to 900 dollars to recipients. Our rent is \$822 for dress rehearsal and the concert; Becky was thinking of asking for 750 or 800.
- The board discussed the question of would we be making it harder for ourselves to get funds if we give a high estimate. Eg if we asked for 800, would they only give us 800 or

nothing? Or might they consider giving us less? After discussing, we decided that the most likely outcome is they will probably decide what it's worth and give us what they believe that value is.

- Becky is still in the process of completing the form - if they ask, she'll itemize the rent, but she's not sure yet if that's required in the application.
- We discussed asking for money for pizza to feed the kids, or to ask a pizza place to donate pizza and give them a free ad in the program.
- We noted that there are about 40 kids in the chorus.
- In the application, we talked about including the following ideas:
 - This is a chance to show that making music/choral singing is something you can pursue your whole life with emotional, cognitive and social benefits.
 - Singing together is one of the most unifying things that people can do, which is particularly relevant in this day and age.
 - The Master Singers will model this for the children's chorus, setting a lifelong example.
 - We are providing an opportunity for the kids to perform.
 - It would be helpful to get a short statement from Angela sharing her perspective/what is worthwhile to her about this. Adam will reach out to her soon.
- Tom has had experience with these grants before and shared an example of when a previous application he submitted was rejected because his numbers were too precise and the grant reviewer thought it was suspicious. He recommended that we keep the numbers clean and round. Becky may reach out to Tom with additional questions.
- We discussed if there were other things beyond rent we could ask for. Becky is hesitant to ask for too much since the top amount awarded last year was \$900. She confirmed that she plans to ask for \$750.
- It's unlikely that the children's chorus would be applying for a grant since they are funded by the city.
- Adam shared that he was on a committee for the Somerville Arts Council and the people on the board weren't particularly knowledgeable about grants/grant proposals. The people evaluating this grant may or may not know anything about grants but should know about the arts.
- Becky shared that one of the co-chairs used to be the chair of the board of the Lexington Symphony and she used to be a singer, so maybe that will help us.

6. Recordings for this season

- Discussed during treasurer's report; Clark will get back to the board after he speaks with his friend this week.

7. Tickets

- Becky sent an email to Randall about the tickets but hasn't heard back. She will ask him again this week.
- If he agrees to print tickets again this year, Randall will need to know that we aren't charging an entry fee for the fall concert and will need specific instructions on what to do for the tickets for the first concert. The template will only be helpful to a point.

- If Randall prefers not to do it, Becky will let us know and we'll need to find another individual who is willing to help.

8. Other business?

- Postcards
 - We will have an electronic postcard for the fall concert. We are not going to order hard copies.
 - We may try to print some ourselves, but we want it to look professional.
 - Grant will reach out to David Grotrian this week to get a higher resolution picture and then will try to print it out himself.
 - Grant will bring a copy to rehearsal for the board to look at and see if it's the quality we want. Grant will aim to bring a copy to rehearsal this week.
 - This will allow time for Plan B if needed.
- There is an error in the children's chorus name in the brochure; it should be the Children's Community Chorus. Becky will reach out to David G. to make the edit on the brochure before we send it out. She has already fixed it on the fundraising letter and Haris made the change to the website.
- Once the brochure is updated, Lindsey will send out an email to the listserv with the brochure and announcing the launch of the season.

9. Next meeting?

- The next meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Sunday October 20 using the same google meet link.