

Lawrence Civic Choir
Board Meeting
Minutes
December 12, 2005

Present: Marlene Merrill, Susan Gandhi, Jeanine Morton, Judy Veatch, Elaine McCullough, Margaret Holdeman, Laura Morgan, Fred Johnson, Robert J. Vaughan, Steve Eubank, Lois Orth-Lopes, Andi Parson

1 Minutes

- 1.1 Judy distributed the minutes of the November 7, 2005, meeting.
- 1.2 Andi indicated that she was at the meeting.
- 1.3 Fred indicated that the stationary is from Printing Solutions, not Measurall.
- 1.4 **MOTION and VOTE:** Fred moved approval as amended, Elaine seconded, approved.

2 Treasurer's report

- 2.1 Jeanine distributed the treasurer's report.
- 2.2 Ticket money is \$2100, which seems low. We want to have an accurate count and we want to make sure that we're not being taken advantage of.
- 2.3 Suggestion was made to be sure to do a head count at each concert.
- 2.4 It was also suggested that we did not have sufficient numbers to sell tickets and monitor things.
- 2.5 **MOTION and VOTE:** Margaret motioned to accept the report. Fred seconded, agreed.
- 2.6 Jeanine will be filing the annual report very soon.

3 President's report

- 3.1 Marlene said Jan 21st from 9 to 12 is the retreat. Sandy Walton indicated that First Baptist may not be available, so Marlene will look into another place. Jean Milstead indicated that the public library might be a possibility.
- 3.2 Marlene called and checked that things were okay at First United Methodist after the concert. They were fine.
- 3.3 Steve recommended that we thank the choir for putting the church back in order after the concert.
- 3.4 Grant application is due middle of March, and we must have the program for fall and spring and the dates for the concerts, as well as the budget in time for this application.
- 3.5 We submitted a request to use the Free Methodist Church at 31st and Lawrence Avenue for our rehearsals. Elaine indicated that we are allowed to sell tickets, that a criteria is that a member of their church sing in the choir (Dave and Diana Ice are members of the church), and that the fact that we're non-profit is a good mark on the application. The performance area is quite movable, there is a good choir rehearsal area. There is no conflict with the 2006 dress rehearsal or concert dates. Then also for the spring 2007 concert if we like the feel of it in the fall.
- 3.6 There was discussion of whether or not to have the spring 2006 concert at Free Methodist rather than at Free State. It was decided that we had put out the word already, so should wait until the fall to make that move.
- 3.7 Larry Mallott has resigned as a board member, officially. Larry volunteered to find himself a replacement. Suggestion was made that Paul Tucker would be a good choice. Marlene has sent him an e-mail, so she'll advise of the response.
- 3.8 At the retreat, we need to talk about the spring tour.

3.9 A big thank you to Andi Parson for opening her house to this potluck and meeting.

4 Director's report

- 4.1 The report on the concert was that there were wonderful moments and awful moments. The instrumentalists were a disappointment. The Lamb was wonderful, although not a normal way to start a concert, with a bang. Pleased, but not satisfied is the general report.
- 4.2 Steve is looking forward to doing the Brahms in the spring. Will use the KU copies, in English. The notes are basically all the same for all editions.
- 4.3 Steve got feedback indicating that moving on the Arise didn't quite work. The choir was having difficulty not being buried in their score. Need to educate people on how to hold their folders and to make sure people have enough room to hold their music properly.
- 4.4 Jeanine suggested that we need to have sectionals so that people learn their music better.
- 4.5 Not having a real dress rehearsal was viewed as a problem.
- 4.6 How do you program for both the musician and the non-musician in a civic choir like this, so that people are comfortable but still challenged.
- 4.7 Steve will bring a projector to show the positives.
- 4.8 Brahms is 4 parts, not 8 and Steve will voice the choir.
- 4.9 How to do the soloists on the Brahms – do we open the auditions out to the public? Let choir members and the public audition and pick the best one. Or do we just hire professionals? **Motion and Vote:** Hire professional soloists for the spring concert, staying within the budget (\$1300 is left in the budget); Sue Gandhi seconded, approved.
- 4.10 Next question – there is a second piano part for the Brahms, can we hire that from outside the choir? Janet Corwin will be contacted by Steve to see if she's available.

5 Spring Semester Readiness

- 5.1 Steve suggested that we get KANU to mention that the choir's first rehearsal will start January 9th and if anybody wants to sing the Brahms', be at First Baptist Church.
- 5.2 On Jan 9th, Robert and Jeanine will take money, Elaine and Jean will do registration, Margaret and Andi will hand out music. Fred and Laura will sell grocery certificates. Judy will sell other merchandise.
- 5.3 **ACTION:** Create a handout relating to grocery certificates. (No action party was assigned.)
- 5.4 Steve suggested that we should cause people to put a deposit down for their music this semester.
- 5.5 The value of the music that is missing is significant – There was discussion about sending people a bill for missing music. No definitive decisions were made.
- 5.6 Jeanine suggested that we actively pursue a way to get music back earlier for people who had dropped from the choir. Actively pursue the drop outs.
- 5.7 **MOTION and VOTE:** Motion from Andi: If we cannot locate the missing copies of Feast of Carols, we will either buy more copies or give the St. Joseph choir the money, whichever is their preference. Fred seconded, Approved.
- 5.8 Those organizations that we borrow music from will be considered for donations, as the board deems appropriate. This will be discussed at the January meeting.
- 5.9 **ACTION:** Judy will e-mail Lois the FAQ document for updating and have that ready for the first rehearsal. Judy will get the spring rehearsal listing to Lois as well.

6 Old Business

- 6.1 **ACTION:** Make ticket prices more prominent on the website, as some people think its free.
 - 6.2 Attire policy discussion is being deferred; there are many logistical problems that need to be addressed.
 - 6.3 New board members – Fred Johnson will be going off the board this year.
 - 6.4 Jean Milstead would like for us to have a signature song that gets sung at every concert. Silent Night has been our fall song. Stroop “How Can I Keep From Singing”.
ACTION: Suggestion/request was made to go to the Campbell’s website, click on Prego and listen to the song. This relates to our TV commercial and recognition.
 - 6.5 **ACTION:** Margaret and Jeanine need a list of new members as early in the semester as possible, so that they can call them to make arrangements for dress measurements.
 - 6.6 **ACTION:** Lois requested that all the women on the board bring their dresses in to allow others to try on at the 3rd rehearsal.
- 7 **Next meeting:** Jan 9, 6:45 for registration, Retreat Jan 21st , Feb 6, 6:15 next real board meeting.