

**Siskiyou Singers Board Meeting**  
**May 15, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**ZOOM**

**Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM**

**Present:** Mary VW, Katharine, Rich G , Cynthia, Michael, Laura, Scott, Loretta, Mark

**March Minutes were approved with the following corrections:**

- Spelling correction “Poulenc”
- 15K orchestra allotment “fall 2022” instead of 2020
- Garland family trust: “we were mentioned in the will” is incorrect

**Written Reports**

*All written reports will be submitted and sent out to board members before the board meeting. They will be entered into the minutes, as written.*

**Artistic Director – Mark**

No report

**President – Mary**

No report

**Publicity/Programs/Public Relations – Michael**

No report

**Membership – Rich**

April report: Mark contacted one of the references supplied by Resonance Masks and received a very positive review. Rich ordered masks for each committee member to try. Masks will be distributed shortly.

May report: Five Resonance masks were purchased and distributed to committee members. 4/5 spoke favorably of both the comfort and function of the mask...

The committee decided not to develop a “return to live singing” timetable until more information is available about state regulations and church policy regarding large gatherings.

Michael reported that he has a camera which could be used for livestreaming rehearsals. He will test its functionality as soon as the church will allow it. It may be necessary to purchase additional microphones to properly record both Mark and the choir.

(the following was reported in-person)

**What is live-streaming rehearsal?** Zoom attendance for those who cannot/choose not to attend in person (have a cold, are unvaccinated, are traveling, etc.). A dedicated camera and 1-2 mics may be needed. Michael has a suitable camera, needs external mics. Over the summer he will access the church and test the system (bandwidth issues, etc.). He might come back at some point and ask for funds for mikes. COVID aside, this might be a good thing to implement (also useful to review Mark’s comments) for those who are traveling or ill.

**Singing masks-** those who reviewed them deemed them usable (roomy, breathable). Mary found it scratchy, and they fogged her glasses but when she pinched the metal nose piece that was better. Straps go around the neck & head, which makes for a better fit than those with ears. We will supply these masks to those who request them.

**Church-** Mary spoke with Chris, and the pastor has the power to make the rules. Masks + 6’ distancing for their (outdoor) will be the case for the resumption of services in the near future.

July will be the time to discuss with renters like us, what this fall will look like. Nothing is set at this time.

They have no HVAC system, just fans in the doors.

Mid-July should be the latest time to contact our members to give them an update about the fall. Scott feels we should send an email sooner, non-specific, saying we are thinking about what the fall will look like.

Mark will send an email soon: we plan on getting together the Tuesday after labor day, subject to gov't regulations in place at that time.

Mary V. will also send a letter out, talking about masks, etc. Also, a line or two about the spring concert, tooting our horn. Our choir is still together!!

The "haves & have nots": those who have not participated will be behind and will need to be brought up to speed. Mary thinks it'll be like riding a bike. The "singing muscles" will need to be built up, but they should be easily regained.

### **Treasurer's Report – Laura**

We continue to do well, balance-wise. We now have a good idea of how cancellation effects finances. We will not need to tap our Reserve Fund this year.

**PROPOSAL:** The money currently in the Reserve Fund appears to be sufficient to cover cancellation contingencies. I propose that no more money needs to be added to the reserve fund. Other uses can be made of any revenue over and above our expenses such as an orchestra fund.

**MOTION:** We will not add additional funds to the reserve this year. **Motion was approved.** This will be revisited in one year.

Scott: If we have disruption that hurts our ability to put on concerts, it actually saves us money.

Our donors have come through, though this may not continue if the pandemic keeps disrupting things.

There are some new accounting standards that pertain to non-profits. Pat G. was asked to look at them: our accounting method would need to change to comply to the new standards, although really, it is not necessary as there is no policing. There are 270 new pages of regs & guidance! Grant applications would need to be stamped: for internal use only. Pat thinks we can continue as we have been with our financial structure. This organization is not governmental, but an industry self-governing entity, and there is no policing. Exceptions might be there if we needed to take out a loan, e.g. No grantors have asked that outside accountants be involved.

*To access the full profit and loss (P&L) report, contact treasurer Laura Barlow*

### **Development committee spread sheet:**

Fundraising looks good- better than last year. This year we have done well with contributions from non-singers (includes 5K from Garland Trust). The committee came up with all the recommendations and Mary B. wrote a letter soliciting donations which only went to people who had not yet donated (former singers + anyone who had ever donated) resulted in 11% return from singers, 18% from non-singers who had previously donated). \$300 was the total cost of this fund-raising effort (mailing costs).

## **Board Business**

### **Soundtrap as a useful rehearsal tool:**

Mark proposes we keep the subscription as it may be a good rehearsal recording tool. You get to choose what you want to listen to, can record yourself.

Mary V.W. has always wanted to hear the singing of words on the rehearsal files, also to hear other parts to sing against. Mark said that adds a tremendous amount of work, unless it is done by a person in each part (advance music would be helpful).

Scott finds that Soundtrap is WAY more useful than the online rehearsal files. Accompaniment can be turned off & on and he would love for that to still be available. A tutorial would be needed for those who need it (there are online ones in addition to assistance from Michael and Howie).

Rich shared that many people did not participate in the virtual choir due to discomfort with the technology. They can still use the online recordings, or even a CD.

**MOTION:** The board will pay \$100/year to subscribe to Soundtrap. **Motion passed.**

Mark will send the bill to Mary B. as he has been paying for it himself. The board decided to let our Zoom subscription lapse, as Mary V. W. has one.

#### **Limitations on planning music for the fall:**

Mark has not been able to plan for the fall as there are so many unknowns, which makes him nervous. He has not chosen the music yet. We may be allowed to only have one-hour rehearsals, which would lead to a much shorter concert. We should plan for a full concert, (assuming we can do 2 hr. 15 min. rehearsals) then cut it back if needed. It was discussed that we choose short, familiar holiday pieces that are less challenging to learn. We will also be dealing with returnees who will be behind and will need time to catch up.

#### **Contract for Emma McNair:**

Previously we wrote up a contract for Millicent & Eileen that we can use as a template. **ACTION:** Scott will draw up a contract that he & Mark can present to Ms. McNair.

#### **Adjourned**

#### **Board Meeting Calendar 2020/2021**

- June 19 unless it is decided that this will be unnecessary

**Location of next board meeting: ZOOM**