

Siskiyou Singers Board Minutes

February 10, 2024 9:00 am - 692 Vasant St. – Ashland

Board Members Present: Mark Reppert, Steve Thomas, Howie Seay, Mary Van Wesep, Laura Barlow, Mary Bergstrom, Loretta Barker, Michele Kyle, Scott Nelson **Guests:** Andrew Klein, Inga Leed

Meeting Called to Order at 9:08 AM

Introductions: Board welcomes guests Andrew Klein and Inga Leed.

Approval of January 2024 Minutes

MOTION: *Scott Nelson moved that the January 2024 Board Minutes be approved. Motion seconded by Loretta Barker. MOTION PASSED*

WRITTEN REPORTS

Director – Mark Reppert –

We are off to a great start this term! I am pleased with the size of the group, with the quality of the group, and with the obvious excitement about this particular concert. So, let's talk about the next term...

As most of you know, we had planned to have Emma McNairy sing the Poulenc Gloria with us in the fall. Unfortunately, she won't be able to do the gig. There are many who think that I came up with the idea for the Gloria, but it was actually Emma's idea.

I have now decided on a piece that would be wonderful for our choir and also, perhaps, good for publicity. We will be doing Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms. We did it with a reduced instrumental ensemble in 2015. This time I would like to do the piece with the full orchestra. The size of the ensemble is about the same, but the makeup is quite different. The orchestra requires brass, strings, 2 harps, and 5 percussionists (no woodwinds).

Leonard Bernstein was, of course, a very important, and flashy, musical figure of the 20th century. I am wondering if it will be possible to parlay the popularity of the movie "Maestro" about Leonard Bernstein's life and relationships into some extra interest. Maybe we can talk about that.

Since the piece is only 20 minutes long, I am looking for another contrasting piece which would also use some of the same orchestra members. I'll let you know how that goes.

President – Steve Thomas –

After our first three rehearsals of this Spring term, I think everything seems to be going well. We have a strong choir who seems to be learning the music quickly with good intonation and sense of rhythm. I think most singers are enjoying the pieces Mark has selected for our concerts and the Italy Tour.

It seems that our registration process went pretty smoothly with just a few exceptions that I believe we're working out for next time. One suggestion from Howie was to maybe bring back online pre-registration and payment to make the whole process run more quickly and efficiently. I'll be looking into that for the Fall registration.

Bandlab continues to be a hot topic but we had everyone fill out a short survey about whether or not they make use of it to practice at home and why or why not. I think we'll get some helpful information to work with going forward.

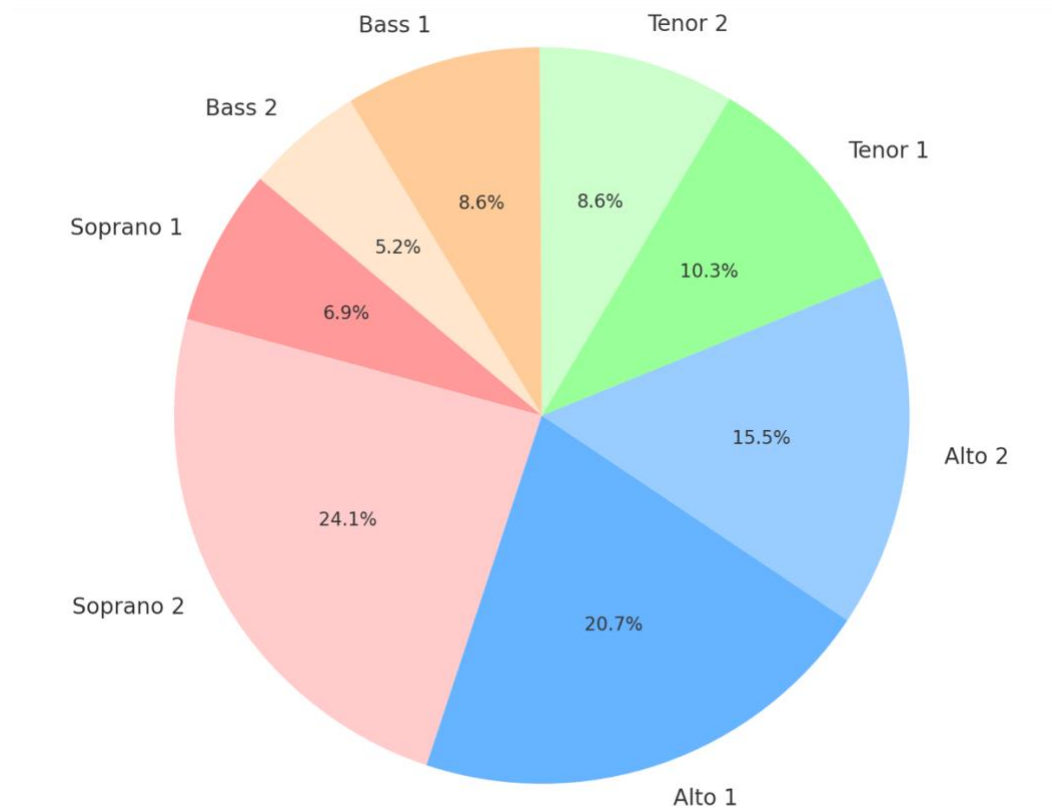
Thank you to all board members who've asked people about possibly joining our board. I know there were a few singers who declined but I think we also may have at least two join us soon. That would bring our number up to 11 for the rest of this year and back down to 10 when Mary Van Wesep resigns this summer. To keep the workload down for all board members it would be nice to be steady at 10-12 members. Of course, more would also be good.

Finally, Sally has resurrected the Educational Outreach Program and signups are in progress this next two weeks. Kudos to Sally, Cynthia and Michael for all the work they continue to do for Siskiyou Singers as ex-board members!

Publicity – Michael Zuzel - no report

Membership – Howie Seay - I am happy to announce that we have 58 registered members of the choir! Please see the breakdown by voice-part below. While we have some consistent members who are taking this season off, we've added new members to keep our registration numbers at the same total from last season!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Saturday! Howie Seay, Chair, Membership Committee



Choir Tour – Cynthia Tank – *no report*

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AT BOARD MEETING: There are 39 people going on the tour, 22 of which are singers.

Treasurer’s Report – Laura Barlow

- **Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2024**
 - Keep in mind the funds in the Italy Tour account are not SS funds.
 - Fixed Assets: These are our risers. Originally purchased in 2004, we have spent a total of approx. \$20,000 on them. A guess at replacement value is \$40,000- \$50,000. I recommend we consider insuring them.

ACTION ITEM: Scott will check with our insurance broker regarding the above Balance Sheet item.

- **Profit and Loss Statement as of January 31, 2024**
 - The bottom line (net income) looks pretty good right now because most of our donations for the year have come in and the SOU bill has not been received.
- **Development Committee Spreadsheet as of January 31, 2024**
 - Still looking to come up with another \$10,000 to meet our fund-raising goal. We will probably pick up another \$1000 in donations for the spring. I think we will beat the tickets sales projection by a few thousand dollars. We really could use some more ad sales. I will put the ad sales contract on Slack so it is available to all.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Laura encourages all board members to solicit ads. The following suggestions were offered as ways to inform members about selling ads: make an announcement during rehearsal; have Steve write about it in his emails; put the ad solicitation form on the website. Andrew Klein suggests that we offer incentives for selling ads.

ACTION ITEM: *Laura will post the Ad Sales Contract on SLACK*

ACTION ITEM: *Steve will ask Michael Zuzel to post the Ad Sales Contract on our website*

ACTION ITEM: *Inga will talk to Sarah (current Ad Sales Manager) about Ad Sales*

○ **Grant Application Status**

- Oregon Arts Commission – Received \$2363 in late January. Will be applying again this month for grant for next year.
- James F. and Marion L Miller Foundation – Received \$2100.
- Oregon Community Foundation – Declined to fund grant. We can try again in the fall.

ACTION ITEM: *Mark and Scott will apply for the Carpenter Grant in April, 2024*

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

ACTION ITEM REVIEW

- Howie will talk to Michael Zuzel about the possibility of putting only the \$5 box on future tickets. **PENDING**
- Revisit the discussion about the taping of rehearsals at the February board meeting. **NOT ENOUGH INTEREST TO MOVE FORWARD**
- Howie, Mark, and Michele will put together a Band Lab survey. **DONE**
- Box Office Task Force Was Established. Members: Mary Van Wesep, Loretta Barker, Laura Barlow, Becky Martin (house manager), Howie Seay. **NEED A PERSON TO LEAD THE TASK FORCE – MARY VAN WESEP WILL DO SO**

OLD BUSINESS

BANDLAB SURVEY RESULTS – 54 people responded. Of that number, 19 do not use BandLab. It turns out that Mark invests 30 – 40 hours preparing the material for BandLab. One way to streamline that is for him to use only piano instead of a collection of different instruments. Rather than have the entire board address the various concerns members have with the program it was decided to form a Tech Task Force.

ACTION ITEM: *A tech taskforce will address technology concerns centered around BandLab. The task force includes Andrew Klein, Mark Reppert, Michael Zuzel with Andrew heading up the Taskforce.*

ACTION ITEM: *Michele Kyle will share survey results with the choir at the next rehearsal announcement time.*

NEW BUSINESS

NEED FOR A SOUND ENGINEER? Andrew Klein suggests that we hire an engineer to handle the recordings for our “on air” promotions. He knows someone who could do so for \$50/hour. (*Andrew’s suggestion does not pertain to our archival recordings. They are done by Jim Abdo and do not need to be of high quality.*) It was pointed out that we already have someone (Michael Zuzel) who does the job for free. The downside of having Michael do the job is that we lose his voice in the recording. However, rather than hire someone, we can work around the problem by letting the recording tape just run. That way Michael can get it started and

then go out to the choir to lend his voice. The board was reminded that there are things that create noise on the tape that need to be addressed. Mark will take care of this.

ACTION ITEM: Mark will inform the choir of tape-recording DO's and DON'Ts.

WORKSHOP TASK ASSIGNMENTS –

- **GENERAL SETUP – Mary Van Wesep (doors at 8:00 AM)**
- **ICE BREAKER SETUP – Michael & Cynthia**
- **POST “NO FOOD ALLOWED” SIGNS ON SANCTUARY DOORS – Mary V.W.**
- **COFFEE – Mary Bergstrom**
- **FRUIT PURCHASER – Michele Kyle**
- **FRUIT PREPARERS – Marilyn Reppert, Michele Kyle, Laura Barlow**
- **DONUTS – Loretta Barker**
- **CLEANUP – Mary Van Wesep, Scott Nelson**

FUNDRAISING - Inga Leed is involved in a fundraiser at the Ashland Middle School. Her suggestion to the board is for us to contribute a prize to their cause. The prize would consist of tickets to our next concert along with some Siskiyou Singers merch, like a hat.

Along the lines of fundraising, Andrew Klein suggests that the board sell concert recordings as a way to fundraise. It was pointed out that recordings were done in the past but they were not of good quality. The sale of said CDs was not profitable. Andrew requests to see a record of the costs surrounding the making of those CDs. He shared that he has a studio available if we are interested in pursuing recording in the future. He suggests doing 3–4 songs which would take about 4–6 hours to record. We need to determine the cost. Andrew will look into this.

ACTION ITEM: Inga will talk to Ashland Middle School regarding the submission of our “prize” to their fundraiser.

ACTION ITEM: Andrew will do more research into recording CDs and report to the board his findings.

ACTION ITEM: Laura will provide Andrew with the choir's financials surrounding the making of CDs

NEW BOARD MEMBERS – The board welcomes new board members Andrew Klein and Inga Leed.

ACTION ITEM: Mary Van Wesep will prepare board packets for the new board members.

ACTION ITEM: Howie will update addresses in the database

ACTION ITEM COMMITMENTS – Mary Van Wesep read through the ***ACTION ITEMS***.

MOTION TO ADJORN - Mary Bergstrom moved to adjourn. Laura Barlow seconded.

MOTION PASSED. We adjourned at 11:49 AM.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: **March 16**
 9:00 AM
 Laura Barlow
 Public Library - Guanajuato Room – Ashland