

The Vernon Chorale, Inc.

Annual Meeting

Season 2022-2023

Date/Time: January 3, 2023 - 7:30 pm

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church (523 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066)

- I. Call to order - 7:33
- II. Opening Remarks, Season Highlights, Acknowledgements
 - A. Another great season so far - repertoire very well received; dedication in preparing ourselves apparent
 - B. Last June's concert provided varied rep, composers
 - C. Thrilled to welcome two choral fellows for Fall 2022, new conducting fellow
 - D. Thank you to executive board, Kathleen Bartkowski (collaborative accompanist), Ehren Brown (artistic director) - for leading us with best interests at heart
 - E. Our Mission - reminder: Our mission is to provide a forum to learn and refine choral singing and to educate audiences through the presentation of choral music concerts, sacred and secular.
- III. Election of Slate of Nominees for Board of Directors
 - A. Current board members whose terms continue through June 30, 2024: Kate Adams, James Burr, Sarah Maldonado, Steve Walker (approved by BOD as of 12/21/22 to step into this vacancy immediately)
 - B. Slate of nominees for a two year term beginning July 1, 2023: Julie Bezanson, Bruce Jones, Patty Richardson, Cindy Trenholm, Liz Whiteley
 - a. The floor was opened for additional nominees/volunteers, No additional nominees were added
 - b. Slate of nominees passed unanimously
- IV. Reports
 - A. Treasurer
 1. Balance: \$30,414.52
 2. Moderately successful capital campaign; being "bailed out" through efforts of CT Humanities Grant (thanks to Cindy Trenholm)
 3. VC stands to remain solvent through this season, probably several more
 4. Fundraising has been affected by pandemic, but we stayed strong
 5. New businesses in campaign this season
 6. Formal report will be posted in section of members' area of website
 - B. Artistic Director
 1. December concert was amazing - thrilled with sound, thrilled that we were able to adjust to no masks so well
 2. Acknowledgements - Liz Whiteley (president), Executive Board, Kathleen Bartkowski (collaborative pianist)

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3. Acknowledgement - conducting fellow David - thrilled to see you grow - , passionate, talented young musician with lots to offer
 4. Happy to have choral fellows back to fulfill our mission
 5. Upcoming April concert overview
 - a) Had different program planned
 - b) December board meeting - suggested bringing back pieces from 2020 program that we didn't get to perform
 - c) Took most of program, added a few to include piano accompaniment (original 2020 program was a cappella)
 - d) More music than usual - 54 minutes (10 more minutes than usual), may not take as much time to rebuild the older pieces
 - e) Drew Groves, tenor saxophonist, coming back to play for Evening Song (played with us the last time we sang the piece)
 - f) Randall Thompson - Last Words of David will be wonderful
 - g) James Taylor - shed a little light - may have musicians for this
 - h) Wailin Jennys - switched to Storm Comin'
 - i) All of Us - last movement from Considering Matthew Shephard
 - j) Treble pieces/tenor bass pieces
 6. June - looking forward for what David will do
 7. Future hopes/goals: revisit partnerships with other groups, such as Hockanum Valley Ringers (handbells), 40th anniversary reunion concert
 8. Celebrating who we are, talent that we have here, trying to branch back out a little bit into the world of collaborating, without diluting us
 9. Board meeting next week - masking policy - should it remain or change? Let Ehren or Board member know if strong opinion
- V. Member Open Forum
- A. Building back: thrilled with how group sounded together; challenge - is there some way besides doing what we do individually to do more corporate singing outside of Tuesday rehearsal - muscles + head game - any music, not just chorale music
 1. Suggestion: caroling - Tuesday after our concert - could bring people together leading up to concert
 - a) Have done in past, sometimes lack of interest in group, takes someone who is excited about it to spearhead
 2. Winterfest, town events, Memorial Day Parade
 3. Need young blood in group, maybe by doing more community things, bring in young blood
 4. Visit assisted living facility and sing with residents, different representatives from choir - sing songs from residents' time period - joyful experience
 - 5.

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- B. December concert feedback - best they've ever heard us sing
- C. Livestream sound issues
 - a) Different video person at St. Bernard - Justin didn't attend rehearsal, person wasn't as experienced that ran the video
 - 2. Was livestream worth it? Discussion of cost vs income
- D. Helpful to have zoom recordings of rehearsal for practicing purposes; we think zoom is here to stay; gives ability to stay home if sick, keep everyone healthier
- E. Program - worth \$100 to go back to original size, discussion of digital vs hard copy; printery fixed issues that we had with ours already
 - 1. Generational opinions - qr codes - how to best serve audience and group
- F. Reminder about January 21st gathering at Kate's house; karaoke night in April
- G. Catering to songs audience enjoys- survey? Qr code?
- H. Photos came out so great, use for fundraising?
 - 1. goal oriented fundraising - leverage - help us raise money for x, y, z
- I. Please share ideas/concerns/needs anytime

VI. Adjournment - 8:30