January 7, 2022

Hello all,

I wish you and yours a Happy and healthy New Year. This is the first weekly newsletter of the spring session of Orpheus. As has been the case during the fall season, we continue to be faced with a number of challenges. Thank all of you for your support of the Board of Directors and the (sometimes) painful actions we have taken in the name of health and safety. None of us liked rehearsing and performing in masks, but that is our reality for now.

The Board of Directors met this past Wednesday in closed session to discuss any changes for beginning rehearsals next week. We reviewed the current Covid data and assessed its impact and risks to our singers and by extension, their families, etc. We reaffirmed our commitment to hold rehearsals this spring in the same way that worked with reasonable success in the fall. That is: masked, socially distanced as our rehearsal venue will allow, with shortened rehearsal times (90 minutes max, for now). We will not have a break or snacks for the present.

Covid-19 Response Policy

In keeping with our policy, please remember to let us know if you have any exposure to or diagnosis of Covid-19. We will let the chorus know that there is a possible exposure within the chorus (keeping your name confidential) and allow each member to decide how to respond.

To report an exposure, please contact your administrative section leader, or contact me at president@orpheus.org or frank.mcpeek@gmail.com. Thank you.

Board Meeting

There is a regularly scheduled meeting of the Orpheus Board of Directors on Wednesday, Jan 19th at 6:00PM. The meeting will be held via Zoom. All members of the chorus are welcome to attend. We will discuss regular board stuff like finances, budget, committee reports and activities. We will also review and discuss our Covid policy and alter or continue it unchanged as conditions warrant.

10-20-30 Campaign

Thanks to all our donors for their generosity in responding to our 10-20-30 campaign. We met our goal and raised more than $35,000 din the campaign.

Scholarship Raffle

The Scholarship Raffle with ticket sales on-line and during our winter Holidays with Orpheus concerts was quite a success! With the efforts of chorus members in gathering prizes and the generous support of our audiences, we grossed more than $4000, which after a few expenses netted ~ $3300. This was possibly our most successful Scholarship Raffle ever.

Thanks to all who participated and congratulations to our lucky prize winners.

Social, Outreach Events

We had a very nice social event on December 17th at In Tempo Bridge club. An outside gathering of about 20 singers and guests was followed by a viewing of our 2020 ACDA performance. I must admit, I had never heard Orpheus through a relatively good sound system before. I was pleased and impressed by our sound while at the same time recognizing some of the mistakes we try so hard to avoid.

We had our Outreach caroling activity on Tuesday, Dec 14th. We sang carols from our concert plus requests at the AZ Veterans Hospital, then at the Palazzo Retirement home. In both cases we were able to sing indoors. Our audience was so enthusiastic and grateful. A lovely evening.

New Rehearsal Venue

On Tuesday, January 11, 2022, we will hold our first spring rehearsal at

 Mount of Olives Lutheran Church

 3546 E Thomas Rd

 Phoenix, AZ 85018.

This location is closer to the center of Phoenix and a bit less of a drive for many of our members.

Please take special care of yourselves so that we all can take part in the upcoming concerts. I hope you and your families remain well and safe.

Frank D. McPeek

President