**Wausau Pro Musica**

**August 2021 Newsletter**



by Dixie Hettinga & Karen Zuidema 8/14/2021

**Important Links You Need:**

[ProMusica Rehearsal Schedule Fall 2021](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1evpbbpgoDPYgPD1Fbqq623ceu3n76Ztcv6Ui-YO0Ac4/edit?usp=sharing)

[Wausau Pro Musica Handbook 2021 - 2022.docx](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XBbbD_AUVVvGOfPdI0UzJDgOAqMNFmqC/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111618306860463514301&rtpof=true&sd=true)

[PROPOSED COVID PROTOCOL FOR RESUMPTION OF IN (2).docx](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hoZWwwiAWBm_P9lV_038tKy2mwvZzVbx/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111618306860463514301&rtpof=true&sd=true)

[COVID waiver.docx](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LVg6pnDfcBYa9qRuLwh-F3DF7Dc1rr9o/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111618306860463514301&rtpof=true&sd=true)

**Board President’s Notes:**

Your WPM Board of Directors met Tuesday evening, August 10 IN PERSON for 3 hours! It was great to be able to sit around the table and physically enjoy one another’s company! We even had members vying to be the first one to raise her hand to make a motion to be acted upon--what a lively and lovely group!!

SO, there is much information in this Newsletter. Please take time to sift through it. We are so thankful to be at the point of resuming in-person rehearsals. We are keeping an eye on the delta variant, but we believe the protocol we have in place addresses concerns related to risk of infection. The only unforeseeable change might be if the COVID infection rate rises in Marathon County to a significant enough level to cancel rehearsals--that’s why Karen highlighted the need to be flexible in our approved Fall calendar.

Highlights from the Board meeting (detailed minutes will be available on our website in about a week):

--The protocol for resuming rehearsals which was approved last May was approved again with one addition. Due to the highly contagious nature of the delta variant and out of an abundance of concern for safety of our membership, effective January 1, 2022 members will be required to show proof of vaccination as a condition of participation in WPM. (See the attached updated Protocol for Resumption of In-Person Rehearsals).

--We have secured First Presbyterian (on Grant St) as our rehearsal venue. This will allow for increased space with better ventilation. Michael Fischer, Director of Music at First Presbyterian and Dixie are working out the details yet but plan on meeting there on your scheduled Tuesday evening. Go to the lower level choir room (stairs or elevator). We will maintain office space at the WCM for now; we will have the capability of using the xerox machine at WCM and use of the Great Hall if desired (for an additional small fee).

--Membership update: for various reasons, the following members will not be returning to WPM: Mary Dassler, Mary Lenard, Linn (Hall) Dehnel, Julie Correll, Linda Terwilliger. There are several others who do not know yet due to retirement, health issues and life changes. This was after the Board meeting, but I had a chance to chat with Charlotte a day ago. Many of you know her (she is our oldest member at 92). She is on continuous O2 and continues to receive care for her wound 3 x per week. She goes to the wound clinic every 2 weeks. She is not having much pain, sometimes her legs hurt. Uses a walker to walk with. She was recently hospitalized (last Sunday ) for a day but test results were all negative. She was talking about trying to sing without using her O2; when I mentioned she might also have to wear a mask, she just laughed!!

--All committees have been set for the Fall (see the Handbook). If you were overlooked for a committee you would like to be involved in, please let Dixie know. Also, Shelly could use some help with the website/facebook page so if that is something you are interested in, please let her know.

--The dues for this Fall are $35.00 (see Handbook). This would be payable to Wendy, our treasurer. There will be a Board rep at each sectional, so you are welcome to pay them when you attend rehearsal. You can also send a check to our PO Box 613, Wausau, WI 54402. Wendy will also take a payment through Venmo. If you have a financial need and cannot make this payment, please let Wendy know. We do not want anyone to feel they cannot participate. Membership dues payment is waived for mentees.

--The fundraising letter was approved--thank you to our writer extraordinaire Pat Tyberg! The fundraising committee will be working on sending that letter to our business and private donors. If you have any business or acquaintance that you think would be willing to help support us, please let the committee know: Lynn Drecktrah, Pat Tyberg, Maureen Noteboom and Shelly Kafka.

As always, feel free to contact me or one of the Board members if you have any concerns. Please read over the Handbook (attached) and print off and sign the last page. Return to Dixie. Please read over the COVID protocol and print off a copy of the waiver form, **sign and return to Dixie by** **September 1.** If you are unable to print off the forms, please let Dixie know and I will get a hard copy to you. Looking forward to seeing you in person soon!!

**Artistic Director’s Notes**:

I hope everyone had a wonderful, safe and healthy summer!

First of all, I want to welcome our newest ProMusica singing sister - as of today!!! Michelle Grutzik will be joining our Soprano I section this fall. Michelle is originally from our area, she is a DC Everest alumni and was a member of multiple Everest music ensembles. She played french horn in band under the direction of Ted Aarrestad (along with my youngest son, Tyler) and sang with the Everest choirs under the great Karen Haines. She also studied voice with Barb Lattimer at WMC. After leaving the area for distant places she and her family have now returned to the Wausau area. That’s great news for us; Michelle has a beautiful voice and will be a wonderful addition to the 1st Soprano section. Since the last ProMusica performance we have added the following new members:

-Soprano I: Danika Kozlovich and Michelle Grutzik Mentee: Abby Trueblood

-Soprano II: Margaret Jerz Mentee: Maggie Yarie

-Alto I: Rebecca Kermitz Mentees: Claire Butalla and Kaydee Rennie

-Alto II: Lauren Kowalski

We are not having a specific or advertised audition date for this semester, but if you know of other potential singers that would like to audition for our ensemble, please share my email address with them and we can set up an audition time. Welcome Michelle and all of the new members!

As you know, the format for our fall rehearsals will be different from what you’ve experienced in choir previously. In order to follow our Resumption of In-Person Rehearsal Protocol we will be rehearsing primarily in sectionals and small, distanced groups for an hour at a time (with a break at the 30 minute mark). I have the fall’s rehearsal schedule listed below. There is also a link included above so you can have the schedule as a document that you can print. **Please be aware that this schedule may have to be altered as the semester progresses.** Changing conditions in how the Covid variants may possibly affect Central Wisconsin make it necessary to constantly review and update our schedule. Besides the format change of our rehearsals you’ll also notice a few other differences: I’ve requested that the rehearsals begin one week earlier than what we’ve traditionally done before, which will affect the 2nd altos only. I want to see each section separately once before October, which forces the schedule to start a week earlier. Rehearsals are not required this semester, although we will take attendance for contact tracing purposes. However - I REALLY encourage you to come to all of your scheduled rehearsals. To keep our singing numbers very low during rehearsals we will be rehearsing only in sectionals or small groups, so each of you individually will only have rehearsal a few times. For the 10/19 - 11/2 rehearsals I have listed “Group A, B or C''. For those weeks you will be assigned a group to rehearse with so we can start singing in small, mixed harmony groups. Which rehearsal group you will be assigned to for those weeks will be sent to you sometime in the first part of September.

Some side notes: During our rehearsals please take some candid photos with your cell phone. We are looking for photos to use for our Facebook page, the newsletter, ect. I’ll share directions with you at rehearsal about sharing the photos you take. However, also be aware that until we have our Mentee’s parental permission slips signed and turned in you can’t take a photo of one of our mentees. I would also like to encourage you to bring a small bottle of hand sanitizer if you have one - I will bring a large bottle to use, but it will be more convenient for you to have your own, if possible. If you are interested in purchasing a mask that is designed specifically for singing, please contact Barb Oelke ([barb.oelke@yahoo.com](mailto:barb.oelke@yahoo.com)) for information. She may be sending out some information pertaining to this to the choir, also - be on the lookout for it.

During rehearsals we will be rebuilding our vocal strength, working on sight reading and choral skills, rehearsing some traditional holiday music (for possible “run out” performances) and getting a head start on some of the music we will be performing in the spring. We’ll also be reconnecting with each other as a choral community, which is as vital as building our technique. One benefit of starting with such small groups is that I’ll get to know each of you personally so much better than a traditional rehearsal format - that’s a huge benefit for an ensemble with a new artist director. *Please* make an effort to come to each of your scheduled rehearsals; the connections we can make during those times will be invaluable.

If you have questions please contact me. I’m looking forward to seeing (and hearing) you in the very near future.

ProMusica Rehearsal Schedule Fall 2021

**Schedule is subject to change due to updated Covid conditions**

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| **Date** | **Time/Voicing** |
| Sept 7 | 6:00 - 6:25 Alto 2  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 7:00 Alto 2 |
| Sept. 14 | 5:15 - 6:00 Board meeting  6:00 - 6:25 Alto 1  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 7:00 Alto 1 |
| Sept. 21 | 6:00 - 6:25 Sop.1  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 7:00 Sop 1 |
| Sept. 28 | 6:00 - 6:25 Sop 2  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 7:00 Sop 2 |
| Oct. 5  Karen Gone | 6:00 - 6:25 Altos (sectionals in 2 locations of the building?)  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 7:00 Altos |
| Oct. 12  Karen Gone | 5:15 - 6:00 Board meeting  6:00 - 6:25 Sopranos (sectionals in 2 locations of the building?)  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 7:00 Sopranos |
| Oct. 19 | 6:00 - 6:25 Altos Group A & Sopranos Group A  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 7:00 Altos Group A & Sopranos Group A |
| Oct. 26 | 6:00 - 6:25 Altos Group B & Sopranos Group B  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 7:00 Altos Group B & Sopranos Group B |
| Nov. 2 | 6:00 - 6:25 Altos Group C & Sopranos Group C  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 7:00 Altos Group C & Sopranos Group C |
| Nov. 9 | 5:15 - 6:00 Board meeting  6:00 - 6:25: Alto I and Sop I  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 6:55: Alto I and Sop I  7:00 - 7:25: Alto 2 and Sop 2  7:25 - 7:35 Break  7:35 - 8:00: Alto 2 and Sop 2 |
| Nov. 16 | 6:00 - 6:25: Alto 2 and Sop I  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 6:55: Alto 2 and Sop I  7:00 - 7:25: Alto 1 and Sop 2  7:25 - 7:35 Break  7:35 - 8:00: Alto 1 and Sop 2 |
| Nov. 23 | 6:00 - 6:25: All  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 6:55: All  6:55 - 7:00 Break  7:00 - 7:30 All |
| Nov. 30 | 6:00 - 6:25: All  6:25 - 6:35 Break  6:35 - 6:55: All  6:55 - 7:00 Break  7:00 - 7:30 All |
| Dec. 7 | 5:15 - 6:00 Board meeting  6:00 - 6:55: All (possible sectionals with section leaders)  6:55 - 7:05: Break  7:05 - 8:00: Christmas sing for fun! |

Possible run out performance ideas, contingent on Covid updates:

Margaret Jerz has invited us to sing at the UU Church in Wausau on December 5th

Possible other church service performances

Festival of Trees - week of Thanksgiving

Nursing Home caroling

Keep well and ***keep singing***!

Karen [karenazuidema@gmail.com](mailto:karenazuidema@gmail.com)

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| **New Website address: www.wausaupromusica.org** |