**Wausau Pro Musica**

August Newsletter

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by Dixie Hettinga & Karen Zuidema     8/21/20

Thanks to Barb Oelke for the photo this month!

**Board President’s Notes:**

Highlights of Board meeting 8-18:

* Welcomed Kathy Koch Engstrum as Member-at-Large; the other officers will stay the same. We are thankful to have Jeannie back on board as secretary.
* Wendy reported that we were able to collect a generous amount to donate to Tatiana. She is working with our liability insurance to get a reduced rate for this year.  All other bills have been paid and we have $9265.53 total equity.
* The Board approved the letter drafted by Pat and the Letter Fundraising Committee with just a few minor revisions.  This will be sent to our targeted sponsors, individuals and businesses as we have done in the past; target date mid to end of September and donations will be accepted to the end of the year.  We will list the donors on our website and in our Spring program.  An updated trifold brochure about our organization will be included in some of the mailings; Shelly will revise this for Board approval at the Sept 1 meeting.  Shelly will send out a donor list to the entire WPM membership for any revisions or additions.  The Board is recommending that the Committee take care of personalizing the mailings since we will not be able to take part of a rehearsal to physically personalize them among the members.
* Target date for the Signature Fundraising Committee to provide more detailed information for approval by the Board was moved to the October board meeting (instead of September).
* Wendy will continue to work with Mary, our WebMaven on creating a tab on our website for people to donate directly using credit/debit cards.
* Tatiana had volunteered to accompany soloists or small ensembles which could be posted on our facebook page; the Board is trying to determine if this would infringe on any copyright laws if we do this.  Karen indicated that she could be involved on a limited basis in helping obtain any music or rehearsing; she did offer her home as a place where the recordings could be done.  Other options are to record in member’s homes that have pianos or at the WCM (with permission).  Members would be responsible for obtaining their own music and giving the accompaniment to Tatiana in advance of the recording to allow her rehearsal time.  The Board will continue to pursue this as it would be good PR and would keep some of us rehearsing on a limited basis.
* Dixie will revise our strategic plan with 6 month, 12 month and 18 month goals and present at the Sept 1 Board meeting for approval.

Other notes:

Tatiana expresses her deep appreciation for the gift of money that was collected on her behalf.  She is so thankful for the generosity of many of the ladies of WPM.  She is still looking for a job but has some options she is pursuing.

PLEASE remember to turn in your Spring music to the WCM by August 28.  I looked this past Monday and there were only about 6 binders that have been returned so far.  We need the music back to be able to file it and Karen is thinking of doing “Song of the Mira” next Spring.  PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE turn in your music!  There is a container just outside of Debi’s office under the stairwell and she is there 9-1 Monday-Friday.  If for some reason you cannot make it to the WCM, please let Dixie know and we will find another way to collect your music.

Don’t forget to fill out the “Fun Facts” survey that Mary sent out.  This will give us some visibility on Facebook and will be linked to our website.  Also, remember the amazon smile program if you are ordering anything.

Attached is the approved 2020-2021 Handbook.  Please review.  The committees are listed but will be mostly inactive this Fall.  The dues and attendance requirements have been waived for the Fall semester.  The Handbook is also posted on our website under the “members only” tab.  Minutes of the 8-18 Board meeting will be posted soon.

For those of you still wondering, we are planning on having a good-by party for Judy.  Patti and Linn are still heading up this effort but with the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, we cannot meet and celebrate as we would wish.  WE WILL have a proper good-by party when it is safe to do so.

I would like to express appreciation for our Board members who are continuing to meet monthly and who are making the difficult decisions we are faced with.  Karen is doing a wonderful job in being flexible to put the Christmas repertoire aside and move ahead in choosing the theme and music for the Spring concert.  I am once again so thankful to work with such a wonderful group of ladies!!

**Artistic Director’s Notes**:

Hi everyone!

The caption on the above photo clip that Barb sent me is a bit small, but the black letters say:  Musica - il nido dell’anima.   Translation from Italian:  Music - the Nest of the Soul.  Definitely what we want to keep hold of as we go throughout our days and weeks.  I also like the rest of it:  Sing out loud - everyday!  The best thing we can do for our voices until we can start rehearsals again is to *use* them.  Hum in the kitchen, sing in the car, definitely belt out your favorite song from any genre in the bathtub or the shower; it’s the best place in the house to sing!  Make everyone in your family roll their eyes while you sing along with tv ad jingles or with your car radio.  Sing to (and with) your children and grandchildren.  Sing to your pets!  Heck - sing to your plants! Sing while you brush your teeth (OK, that may be taking it a bit far…).  It doesn’t matter what it is - just sing!

Things going on this month;

- **There is a new member in the ProMusica family!**  Lauren Kowalski will be joining the choir as a 2nd alto.  Lauren went to college at Carthage College in Kenosha for vocal music.  She hasn’t been able to be in a vocal ensemble for awhile now, and is very excited about singing again.  I was lucky enough to have had Lauren’s very talented 2 sons, Justin and Jordan, in my choirs in the past, and *she’s* excited to let them know that she’s singing with a choir again!  Lauren has a warm, full alto voice and she’s a warm, great person to spend time with.  She’ll definitely fit well with the Pro Musica family and I’m thrilled she’s joining us.

**-We have 3 young women that are planning on joining us as new mentees**!  They are all Juniors from Wausau West:  I’m certain you will enjoy meeting and working with Claire Butalla, Abby Trueblood and Kaydee Rennie.  We’ll have more bio information on these three young musicians to share with you soon.  Welcome Claire, Abby and Kaydee!

-I’m wondering if anyone in the choir has contact with anyone that plays Hammered Dulcimer.  I do have an organization I can reach out to (the same one your group worked with last Christmas), but before I do I’m wondering if there is a person in our own community that anyone knows of that plays well.  Please contact me if you know of anyone!

 - Updated Information I can share with you from the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association and the American Choral Directors Association:

1. WCDA has put a K-12 school choir music advocacy video on YouTube and is hoping that community choral members share it with others (and their local school administration) through social media.  It’s called How Can I Keep From Singing [https://youtu.be/dlAWUKeXdmY](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001wnroPxuFQ5mb99ngm8kcxrLm5AbMotmIW6yQa4r8Hv2OpUI-coB4OMfKnJqPSZvHohKBxlpKbaDOkA9qQS4ERXcfjuuf9trG5JRKcNTDaXdd8XWDHh1zHMKty126CT7WTd06lVXxBpMipef_4CP1Vw==&c=Q4aSiSxngmkDaqKtkZnGRBifrbv1n1wsIHQSDKfprhEaRE2sml5HnA==&ch=e0JoD4JY25d7-HX2nNnErHu8Byx8a6lCSDrllztf-1WM8SdKvK9Y1Q==)
2. Cut and copied from WCDA:  Jerry Hui has created and continues to update a document with a collection of scientific studies, “COVID-19 and Singing: Scientific Research and Contrary Opinions.” [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f0NawDJ4fcjc7GXxzHxEemGA3z4kjuVD5YzP4Lkbq48/edit?usp=sharing](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001wnroPxuFQ5mb99ngm8kcxrLm5AbMotmIW6yQa4r8Hv2OpUI-coB4OMfKnJqPSZvHh_i5-_far_KkAJsId_qov0O2t9Bm4nfn0QOBhemhAqaffbCy21Wib0Rn7yPO0u21PIB1iSDkr0KU9-ksLe4Z0u2T9Ziy5pkU18M5_lNHGw6Fza1jHeLX2WdZAj3K4C_cuY1PMOjyyuEVAddJpU_0s-1n4WGnTDSzWcxJO0wlEWfqUZRmMhu3gBcnmhopPza0&c=Q4aSiSxngmkDaqKtkZnGRBifrbv1n1wsIHQSDKfprhEaRE2sml5HnA==&ch=e0JoD4JY25d7-HX2nNnErHu8Byx8a6lCSDrllztf-1WM8SdKvK9Y1Q==)
3. From ACDA:  If anyone would like further information on the International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study (Round 2) here is a Youtube link:  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8JgK-vA8Qc&feature=youtu.be>
   1. If I’m understanding this correctly they are no longer recommending a 16 foot distance for Aerosol safety but now 6 feet for a 30 minute rehearsal time frame (outdoors or with a rotating air system) with a 5 minute break between rehearsals.

-Attached below is a link to the updated 2020 WPM handbook.  Sending the link was the easiest way to attach it to the newsletter, I’m hoping everyone is able to access it this way.  PLEASE send me an email if you weren’t able to open the file link and I can send it to you in a different way.

-Lastly; I should have the spring concert repertoire titles out to you in the next newsletter, I’m in the final stages of getting that concert list completed.    I’ll have to wait a bit to send you the scans of the music, as some of it I’m borrowing from various schools and I have to wait until the buildings are open to get those in hand.  I’m so excited about this concert!!!

Keep music in the nest of your soul and - KEEP SINGING EVERYDAY!

Wausau Pro Musica Handbook 2020 link:

C:/Users/Karen/Downloads/Wausau%20Pro%20Musica%20Handbook%202020%20-%202021.pdf

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

