

MINUTEES
OCTAVO SINGERS BOARD MEETING
9.27.22
VIA ZOOM

The meeting came to order at 7:17

Present were Diane Deacon, Dave Roberts, Judy Israel, Nina Kryzak, Kate Kilmer, Wendy Luft, Chris Yost.

Focus of the meeting was to iron out details of recommencing rehearsals for Octavos, leading up to a December performance of the Messiah. We will be starting on October 3, 2022, with our newly hired Artistic Director, Andrew Burger, at the Zion Lutheran Church. Diane advised that Zion provided three fobs that will unlock the church; she will retain one of them and will need to advise the church as to the names of the other two who will be issued a fob.

Diane summarized the results of the survey of our membership, relating to the Covid precautions, with the goal of deciding on them in time to notify the group before October 3. Seventy-seven percent of the membership voted to have facemasks optional, while the remainder were unsure or were unwilling to return without a mask mandate.

The Board discussed two alternative approaches previously submitted by Diane. Both were based on CDC recommendations, with modifications that were informed by the Covid policies adopted by other local community choirs, Albany Pro Musica, and Saratoga Voices -- both of which are using "mask optional" Covid protocols at this time. Version 1 was the "mask optional" version, while Version 2 would have continued with a mask mandate along the lines that we had employed this past spring. Kate Kilmer proposed some alternative language in Version 1 that was intended to simplify the procedures to be followed in the event that a member of the choir experiences a Covid exposure during or between our weekly rehearsals. That language was: "If you had a known unmasked exposure (to a Covid-positive person) within 7 days of the next rehearsal or performance, [conduct a self-administered PCR] test at least twice before the next rehearsal/performance. The second test should be on the day of the rehearsal."

Diane formulated two motions for the Board's consideration: First she moved that we vote on Version 1 as modified by Kate, before considering the language of Version 2. All Board members voted "aye," except Diane, who abstained. The second motion was to adopt the "mask optional" Covid policy in Version 1, as modified. All Board members voted "aye," except Diane, who abstained. Thus, the mask optional precautions were adopted.

We will have board members at the door to verify that everyone has been checked for vaccination and booster and review that information for those not yet checked. We will collect dues and offer music (if needed). Board members will arrive by 5:45 pm to set up tables for these tasks and registration.

Kate Kilmer proposed that we consider buying a parting gift on behalf of the choir membership to Curtis and Danielle Funk, in appreciation for their service to the chorus -- perhaps a gift certificate to an upscale restaurant -- collecting whatever donations that people might want to give. Kate volunteered to take up this task, with an eye toward giving the gift by the end of October. This proposal endorsed by the Board.

Meeting ended at 8:32 pm.