

VP Music Report

7 Oct 2017

- On Saturday, Sept 23, Jackie Bishop was brought in to work with us on the contest songs: On a Wonderful Day Like Today and Little Pal. I was not personally able to attend the session but in listening to the recordings I like what I heard.
- The quartet coaching session on Sep 9 was very successful. In attendance as coaches were Paul Eastman, Sean Able and Randy Meyer. Quartets were: MetroGnomes, Never Too Old Four, Bascom Avenue 4, and a mixed quartet from the Peninsula Harmony Chorus. The improvements in all singers by the end of the day was very noticeable. We'll to do something like this again sometime in 2018. Possibly twice.
- Director continues to reinforce the Bel Canto techniques presented to us by Debra Lynn. In addition, Section Leaders are going to circulate among the members of their section and remind those that need reminding about the method. As an added bonus, Debra gifted some of her recorded teachings to The Peninsulaires. We are working to get them onto Groupanizer so that everyone in the chorus will have access to them.
- The Music Team identified "low hanging fruit" items that could help the chorus be more successful at Contest.
 - Section Leaders have been encouraging the men in their section to work more aggressively on Cabaret songs outside of rehearsal time. This will allow Sean to focus more on contest songs.
 - Jerry has created Special Learning Tracks of the contest songs. The idea is to make it possible for the guys to drill in the interpretation and dynamic plan so it becomes second

nature. We believe that will increase their confidence level which will, in turn, be reflected in the contest performance.

- Regarding the taping program: We did another mass recording on the Sep 21 rehearsal. As of Sep 30, only two people sent their self-assessment to Paul: VP Music and Assistant Director, Michael Gordon.
- A date for Spring Show 2018 has been selected: Saturday, March 24. VP Music will ask the Board for a decision regarding have one or two shows that day. This is to be the 75th Anniversary performance for which we are inviting former Peninsulaires members. Once that decision has been made, arrangements can be made with San Jose City College for the use of the theater.
- We've initiated a more formal quarteting activity. We are encouraging the men to come to rehearsal early and/or stay late and sing in a pick-up quartet. The recommendation is that they use repertoire songs (but not contest songs). These are tunes they should know and singing them in a quartet will hopefully help each individual gain confidence. I'm told that one "quartet" took advantage of the opportunity on Sep 21.