

## **Music Team Minutes**

### **29 Dec 2019**

- Music Team unanimously agrees that the chorus has improved in the areas of singing and musicality. Our visual performance level has not improved as much.
- We see that chorus members are successfully learning more music, more quickly. The quality of learning tracks is a major contributor to that. We also believe the weekly reminder emails of songs to address in the upcoming rehearsal helps guys to focus attention. We will continue the emails.
- We came to the following conclusions regarding coaching:
  - It has been extremely beneficial
  - We should bring the same coach back multiple times rather than bringing different coaches in once or twice.
  - The singing coach and visual performance coaches should be different people.
  - Chris Lewis is to be our singing coach. Our objective is to have him work with us at a Thursday rehearsal every 6 weeks (ideally). [We realize this may be aggressive, but that's the target.]
  - Mike Cating is to be our visual performance coach. Our objective is to have him in on a Saturday one month before a major performance (i.e., Spring Show and Cabaret) and one month before Division and District conventions (probably on a Thursday).
- We intend ask a certified barbershop judge to periodically come to our rehearsal to listen to our contest package. We want the judge to tell us how he/she scored us and why. We do NOT want the judge to attempt to “coach” us on the points mentioned. We will give the judging notes to Chris and Mike so they can incorporate the information into their coaching.
- We intend to regularly employ Sectional Rehearsal into the weekly program. Frequency to be determined by the Director.

Sectionals will be used for regular repertoire as well as contest songs. There will be two types of Sectional Rehearsal:

- Voice Part Sectionals. These will be used to enhance the unit sound of the section and correct any confusion regarding a song.
- Mini-Chorus Sectionals. The chorus will be divided into 3 or 4 mini-groups. This will accomplish multiple things:
  - Enable each singer to more easily hear the other parts. Sometimes being so far away from a part (like baris and tenors) can make it more challenging to hear where your voice fits into the fabric of the ensemble.
  - Make it possible for the Chapter to deploy a mini-chorus for an outside performance. Sometimes the venue will not accommodate the full chorus. Having mini-chorus sectionals will make it possible for us to have an appropriate complement of singers to deploy in such situations.
  - Help each singer gain confidence in their ability to carry their part.
- Assistant Directors will have more involvement in weekly rehearsals as well as mini-chorus sectionals. This will accomplish the following:
  - Make it possible for Director to “listen” without needing to also direct.
  - Provide additional directing experience to ADs. It is possible that
    - Director may not be available for a scheduled performance; or
    - More than one mini-chorus could be deployed at the same time.
- Contest songs for 2019 are Blue Velvet and A Wink and A Smile. Blue Velvet will be cycled out for 2020. Wink and a Smile will be cycled out in 2021. Replacement songs have not yet been determined.

- Outside Performances – These are performances other than Division Contest, District Contest, Spring Show and Cabaret. Some are paid performances. Some are not. We anticipate ten (10) outside performances in 2019. They are:
  - Up to 4 performances for Sunnyvale Elks. The Elks have multiple community support events each year. Each community event is in support of a different group (such as Special Olympics; Veterans; etc.). Our exchange with the Elks for usage of their facility for weekly rehearsal is to do up to 4 performances a year in support of their activities.
  - Palo Alto Farmer's Market: Summer and Winter
  - Holiday Train
  - Mountain View Tree Lighting
  - Channing House – date not yet set. We will receive \$300 compensation for this performance
  - Morgan Hill Public Library – date not yet set. This performance will be on a Monday night. Possible dates will be determined shortly after New Year. We will receive \$300 compensation for this performance
- New songs to be introduced to the chorus in 2019:
  - Are You Lonesome Tonight (we're already worked on this some)
  - Way Down Yonder In New Orleans (reviewed briefly before Spring Show but postponed due to other priorities)
  - Country Roads
  - Hello My Baby
  - Secret Agent Man (this song is specific for the Spring Show on April 27th)
- Interim Music Librarian will prepare a new Table of Contents for Guest Books as well as for members.