

Minutes of the Suncoast Phoenix Community Choir
AGM, June 20, 2024

Annual General Meeting: Held in St John's United Church in Davis Bay

A. Meeting Called to Order: 6:30pm

B. A Quorum was achieved.

C. The Agenda was approved: Moved Sheila, Seconded Nancy

D. The Minutes of the AGM from 2023 were approved : Moved Sheila, Seconded Jane.

E. New Business:

1. Discussion regarding the date for the Spring concert.

Sara spoke to the issue of if the concert should be held in June or May. The choir voted and the majority chose May. The exact date to be determined by Sara.

2. President Rachel reminded the member of the importance of full attendance at rehearsals or on ZOOM, and reminded the new members to read the Handbook which is published on the Choir Website.

3. Rachel thanked the Choir for committing to sing at hers and Jim's wedding on June 22 and reiterated her invitation to all to attend. The Choir will gather at 1:30pm and the ceremony will start at 2:00pm. Rachel asked the members to help to find a better venue for our concerts.

4. The Fundraiser 2024 was a grand success, with everyone enjoying and good participation. Catherine spoke to the success and thanked everyone who made it such a success. She announced that a survey will take place on the subject of fundraising in the future.

5. Rachel asked for volunteers to help handing out music in the first rehearsal in September which will be for music distribution and a social gathering.

F. Reports:

1. Treasurer: Stu

Stu reported that 2023/24 was a very good year financially and we finished up on a budget \$30K, with \$11K in the bank.

The Financial Report for 2023/24 was circulated and approved.

Catherine spoke to the Fundraiser and thanked everyone, particularly Sonia, Evelyn and Susan for their leadership. After discussion, choice was given as to whether choir members wish to have their fees increased by approximately \$45 per term or to run a fundraising event. The result was a 50/50 split.

MOTION: That a new survey should be sent to the choir members in the Fall regarding this issue. Moved Jane/Seconded Pamela

3. Music Director: Sara Douglas

Year End Report: Music Director of Suncoast Phoenix Community Choir

As the Music Director of our lovely, vibrant community choir, I am very pleased to present my report for the 2023-2024 Seasons. It has been a terrific year with growth in membership, dedication to excellence in performance and a lot of fun!

Membership: We have continued to increase our numbers to the point where we don't need to advertise for new members, although we do welcome new singers to our community.

Rehearsals: We continued to have rehearsals in person at Living Faith Lutheran Church and then moved to St John's United Church as our numbers grew. We also broadcast our rehearsals and concerts on Zoom, (which were recorded when I remembered to hit "record"), so that singers could join in from home when they were ill, away or chose to be zoom only members. This practice has served us well and will continue next year.

Performances: We presented three sets of concerts this year- two concerts of the Mozart Requiem on Remembrance Day, two concerts in December, plus a sing-out at the Botanical Gardens, and two concerts in the second week of May. All of the concerts were very well received by our audiences. I heard many comments such as, "this was my favourite choir concert ever!"

Sunshine Coast Festival of the Performing Arts: we participated in the festival with Frances Roberts as the adjudicator. The choir sang very well and Frances had many positive things to say about our singing as well as our spirit. She also gave us suggestions for improvements, some of which we implemented in our May concerts.

Challenges and Future Goals: While we celebrate our achievements, it is crucial to acknowledge the challenges we encountered and outline our continuing goals:

1. **Attendance and Commitment:** We will continue to emphasize the importance of regular participation.

2. Expansion of Repertoire: While we successfully explored various musical styles, we aim to further expand our repertoire to include more diverse genres, languages, and periods of music, ensuring a well-rounded musical experience for both our members and audiences.
3. Community Outreach: Building stronger connections with the local community and engaging with underserved populations are possible goals for the upcoming year. I would like choir members to investigate the possibility of small group sing-outs for various locations on the Sunshine Coast.
4. Music Education and development: I am hoping for the opportunity to incorporate some workshops and masterclasses by guest artists, such as Sandra Meister, (who would love to come and work with our choir), and indeed, by members of our choir who have expertise to share, as we aim to enhance our skills and broaden our musical horizons.

Plans for next year:

As we did this year, we will begin our fall season on September 5 at St John's United Church with a drop-in event to pick up music and enjoy some social time together. There may be treats!

Regular rehearsals will begin on September 12 at 6:45 pm. I will be away for September 19, and Janice Brunson has agreed to lead that rehearsal.

December Concerts are planned for December 14 and 15, barring conflicts with the community band and orchestra.

Remembrance Requiem: We will be practicing and presenting the Rutter Requiem for Remembrance Day this year. Rehearsals will start on Sunday, September 15 at 1 pm, and will run each Sunday until the concerts at 2:30 and 4:30 pm on November 11.

I will also hold some summer rehearsals for the Requiem - date TBA

Our choir has had a full year of wonderful concerts, fabulous music and truly lovely friendship. Thank you all so much for your time, dedication, talent and hard work. I look forward to our music making next year.

Enormous thanks to Tom, our pianist for his truly awesome musicianship, leadership, talent and hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Douglas

Music Director,

Suncoast Phoenix Community Choir

4. Librarian: Sonia

Sonia thanked Kathy and others for their help with music this year. She also reminded members to return their music as soon as possible with all marks erased and music in alphabetical order.

Publicity; Sheila

Sheila reiterated that she had placed ads in newspaper and on the website as well as on the Coast Cultural announcements. There will be no advertisement for new members as we have a full house at the moment.

5. Concert Coordinator: Nancy

Nancy has been exploring new venues for concerts. It was a happy year with no complaints and no one has seemed to mind that there were no refreshments served at the concerts. This is a great relief to the choir.

6. Secretary: Mary

Mary thanked Sara and Rachel and the full Board for their commitment and friendship over her past ten years on the Board. She congratulated the Board for their exemplary working together. She thanked Sheila for filling in for her when she was unavailable. She expressed her enjoyment and encouraged others to join in. She wished the new Secretary good luck.

7. Membership: Susan

Membership has hovered around 60 this year. In rehearsal we have around 35 to 50 including 7 or 8 via ZOOM.

QUESTION from the floor: Can we have a comprehensive members' choir list please?

G. Nominations: Rachel

Nominations for directors for the coming year:

As required by our bylaws to resign, the Board resigned. The following people would like to continue on the board:

Catherine Hanson: Treasurer

Nancy Webber: Concert Coordinator

Jane Mossop: Vice President

Susan Blockberger: Secretary

Sheila Tyner: Publicity

Rachel Manley: President

Stu Austen and Mary Baker would like to retire.

Further nominations were asked for from the floor three times.

Sara and Tom were thanked for the year of wonderful leadership and music.

Moved Irene, Seconded Sheila

Adjourned at 7:18pm