



## **Governing Board Meeting**

**Saturday, April 16th - 11 AM  
Virtual**

### **1. Celebrations - Co Chairs**

- a. We celebrated that this particular event was one of the most well-behaved and least conflict-ridden events we have hosted.

### **2. Updates from event**

- a. Risers and Shells
  - i. The board borrowed shells from Liberty Middle School and Falcon Creek Middle School. The moving company that was hired did not pack the shells correctly, and they were damaged. The board is asking the moving company to pay for the damages
  - ii. The moving company is trying to fix the shells. Unfortunately, parts are backordered and this delay may run into an issue with Liberty MS's May concert. The director has been understanding and patient.
  - iii. We are looking for a different moving company for next year, and we would like to ask a different middle school to borrow risers from due to this mishap.
- b. T shirts

- i. There were only a handful of items left over at the end of the event. Vicky was absent from the meeting, but she will provide an update of sales.
  - ii. The water bottles can be reused every year. We think they sold out, but we need an update.
- c. Recordings
  - i. Recordings were delivered about a week and a half after the event. Families loved that the recordings were delivered digitally. This was a new recording company, and we are happy with the results. Our contract is through CMEA, and we get a small percentage back through using this company.
  - ii. Some families were upset that there was no video recording this year. The recording studios are working on potential video recordings for next year, but this is not guaranteed.

### **3. Budget Updates - Co Chairs and Cherese**

- a. This year's budget is not yet complete due to waiting on various reports (recordings, apparel, ticket sales, etc.). We also have not paid the moving company yet, due to the problem mentioned above.
- b. The current bottom line is under target, but the majority of the items that need to be inputted are income items. We are still hoping to pay the board chairs this year, so Cherese is feeling positive. The board chairs had previously decided to forego their salaries this year in order to save on costs.
- c. We will revisit this at our August meeting.

### **4. Next Years event**

- a. Clinicians
  - i. We are confirmed with three clinicians for next year.

1. Dr. Nathan Payant from CSU will conduct Mesocolare. He deferred his acceptance from the 21–22 year to the 22-23 year.
  2. Maria Ellis (@girlconductor) will conduct Triplo.
  3. Stephen Ross (from Face Vocal Band) will conduct Cambiato. We are hoping to potentially commission him for a composition.
- ii. There was pushback from some directors about the clinicians this year, due to their connections with Colorado directors and the board in general. It was asked if there can be a more formalized process for nominating and voting for clinicians next year.
1. The current process is that a board member will add to a suggestion list, and the co-chairs pick the clinicians. After the co-chairs reach out to three nominees to see their availability, the board will approve or deny the clinicians.
  2. We plan to discuss if this process should be more formalized in a future meeting.
- iii. Please see 6.g.i. for further discussion.
- b. Dates planned out
- i. September 19, 2022: Auditions Open
  - ii. October 7, 2022, 5:00pm: Audition and Payment Deadline
  - iii. November 5, 2022: Audition Tabulation Deadline for Judges
  - iv. Approx. November 11, 2022: Calculation and Compilation of Scores Deadline for Audition Coordinator
  - v. November 28, 2022: Acceptances Released to Directors
  - vi. December 13, 2022: Acceptance Deadline
  - vii. March 9 and 10, 2023: All State Festival

- viii. We will send these dates out at the beginning of May, and also at the beginning of next school year.
- c. Visit Denver People
  - i. Visit Denver is a company in the tourism sector specializing in the downtown area. They work with hotels and the convention center, and the benefit to using them would be one point of contact for us, and they would set up all of the hotels and performance/rehearsal spaces. In addition, their charges are paid for by taxes, so their services would be free to use.
  - ii. Our board chairs will have a conversation with Sammie (our contact with Visit Denver) about pricing in the Convention Center versus using hotels such as the Embassy Suites.
  - iii. Another benefit to using Visit Denver would be having a consistent coordinator year after year, as opposed to the board chairs that change every few years.
- d. Rehearsal Spaces
  - i. Our board chairs discussed their disappointment with excessive charges from the Convention Center. Many costs went up this year, and some board members experienced negative interactions with Convention Center staff regarding signage and clean up.
- e. Practice tracks/scripts
  - i. Based on the feedback form we received, directors thought this year's audition tracks were fair and consistent.
  - ii. Kyle, our webmaster, will be stepping down from the board at the end of the year. Jacob, our new webmaster, will record the new official tracks. We will keep the practice scripts with Kyle's voice to help Jacob transition.

- iii. Jacob suggested that we create a video resource for directors on how to record tracks in GarageBand. This would be in addition to another “how to” video on our website.
- f. Possible Changes?
  - i. There were no suggestions for changes during this meeting, but board members were encouraged to continue populating the Google Doc with suggestions for next year.

## **5. Duty Assignment Updates**

- a. The board is considering adding positions with a focus on Fundraising, as well as one on Diversity and Equity. This will be discussed in August when new board members are present. If any board members feel strongly about entering one of these positions, please reach out to the chairs.

## **6. Go over survey from directors**

- a. Overall, the feedback from directors was very positive. About 100 schools participated in this year’s All State, and about half of the directors submitted a survey.
- b.** Please see 4.a.ii. for information regarding our discussion on this year’s clinicians.
- c. Finding Information and Website Navigation
  - i. Finding information was easy (mainly 5’s).
  - ii. Some comments regarding our website were polarized. (Some thought it was easy to navigate, some did not).
    - 1. Jacob wants to tackle the website next year.
    - 2. Jacob made updates to the dates and to the board members page.
  - iii. Auditions were easy to submit (mostly 5’s)
- d. Aura Lee

- i. Some directors mentioned that they are becoming tired of *Aura Lee*. This is a topic that comes up every year. It is difficult to find a prepared song that does not have a problem with it. It would also be a fair amount of work to change the song.
  - ii. It was suggested that the tempo be sped up in both the audition and practice tracks to help accommodate that the phrases are long for middle school singers.
  - iii. A two year rotation of songs was also suggested. Students only have two opportunities to audition, so there would never be a repeat. Directors would be aware of the two song options and which one would occur every year (i.e. “even numbered years are Song A”).
- e. Rubric
  - i. The new rubric adopted this year was overall a huge success. Directors praised the clearer expectations.
  - ii. It took Deanna and Vicki about four hours to sort the audition cards for returning to directors. It was suggested that this project could be done at the November meeting by district governors. This process would be done after the audition tabulation and score cutoff process.
  - iii. It was suggested that scorecards be scanned and emailed, versus given out in person. It would be easier for a paper trail, but it could take a long time. Jacob suggested scanning the documents and automating an email to the directors.
- f. Hotel
  - i. Reserving rooms in hotels was difficult this year due to another event taking place downtown. Hopefully this will be more streamlined with our partnership with Visit Denver.

- ii. There were comments on the survey regarding the other event, hotel problems, and tax exemption challenges. These are out of our control.

g. Clinicians

- i. Continued conversation from 4.a.ii.
- ii. The director survey was extremely positive about our clinicians. It appeared that directors were unaware about our mission to ask Colorado-based clinicians this past year.
- iii. It was suggested that the board include an explanation of why these clinicians were chosen (or a particular year's "theme" if applicable) in our announcement email and on the website.

h. Professional Group Performance

- i. Directors were split evenly on their opinion of having a professional group's performance. Not having a performance saved on cost.
- ii. Some directors were unsure of what to do during the elongated lunch period. Some directors took their students sight-seeing or did a scavenger hunt. It was suggested that the board put out a list of suggested activities during this time (if we continue to not have a professional performance).
- iii. Stephen Ross, a clinician for next year, is a member of the professional acapella group Face Vocal Band. Perhaps we could get a discount on a performance by them.
- iv. It was also suggested that the professional group performance take place at the end of the first day. This would work if the rehearsals began earlier in the day.

i. Director's Choir

- i. The main feedback we received was that directors felt that they did not have time to look at the music beforehand. We should stress that the music chosen for the director's choir should be sight-readable music. It was suggested that we call the choir a sight-reading choir to stress that it is ok for directors to sight read this music.
  - ii. The Director's Choir is traditionally directed by previous co-chairs. Nathan and Cherese are up next for this.
- j. CMEA Audition Clinic
  - i. We asked directors if they would want a session at CMEA on how to audition students. Most people said "no."
- k. Final Thoughts
  - i. These were mainly "thanks" from the directors.
  - ii. Many directors did not like the duty list we implemented this year. The main piece of feedback we received was that directors in the Director's Choir frequently had an assignment during the rehearsals. Perhaps board members should be the people on duty when the director's choir is rehearsing.
  - iii. There were negative opinions regarding masks. Hopefully this will not be an issue next year.

## **7. Things to Remember Document**

- a. The board reviewed this document.
- b. Sight Reading Factory now has a CMASC setting.
- c. Next year, we will put comp tickets for directors in their welcome folder. Perhaps we could also have a different door further down so directors can have a different process or location for checking in to the concert.
- d. Equity and Inclusion

- i. In a future meeting, it was suggested that the board should discuss if at least one student per school should be accepted.
  - ii. We hope to offer scholarships in the future for students. Perhaps this could be funded by ads in the program. Visit Denver could help us with something like this as well.
  - iii. Scholarship opportunities are helpful, but it was noted that the issue is not money, but more so a perception that “they won’t get in anyway.”
  - iv. One suggestion to help with this might be that if a school did not earn any acceptances, they would receive a certain amount of auditions for free the following year.
  - v. The board affirmed that there is no conversation or avenue that we aren’t willing to have or explore to make this a true “All State” experience.
- e. JWPepper
- i. We had a few issues this year with JW Pepper regarding minimum copies and ordering times. We have looked into moving with Music and Arts. We plan to give JW Pepper one more chance this upcoming year, just in case their issues this year might have been related to the pandemic.
- f. 8th Grade
- i. In the past, we ensured that students with unchanged voices who were in All State both years experienced both Mesocolare and Triplo. The two groups used to have different voices, but they have since become similar, if not the same, in voicing and skill level. In the future, 8th graders will not necessarily be assigned to another group.
  - ii. If a student has a changed voice, they will be assigned to Cambiato.

g. Board Application

- i. We need to put the board application process on the website.

h. Board

- i. If any board members anticipate a change in their CMEA district or teaching status, please email the chairs.
- ii. We are thinking about adding a governor position for District 5, which is a large district.
- iii. We might also consider adding positions for both fundraising and equity/inclusion roles.

**8. Next co chairs!**

- a. Fill out this form by April 23rd to nominate new co-chairs
- b. We will contact nominees by the 27th and give the board a google form for voting on the 30th. The form will be due May 7th, and we will have our Co Chair elected!

Next Meeting Dates:

- March 10th and 11th - CMASC 2022
- April 16th, 2022 - Virtual
- August 20th, 2022 - Virtual
- September 10, 2022 - Virtual
- October 15, 2022 - Virtual
- November 19, 2022 (in Person) at Boulder HS
- No December Meeting
- January 28, 2023 at CMEA (in person)
- February 25, 2023 - Virtual
- Event March 9/10, 2023
- April 15, 2023 - Virtual