

**Mississauga Festival Choir**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL**  
**MEETING**

Monday, September 25, 2023  
8:45pm to 9:30pm  
Cooksville United Church 2500  
Mimosa Row, Mississauga, Ontario

Number of Members Present: 96

1. Adoption of the Agenda

No changes or additions were suggested

**Motion: To approve the adoption of the meeting's agenda**

**Moved by: Cindy                      Seconded by: Kristan**

**Motion Carried**

2. Adoption of the September 26, 2022 – Annual General Meeting Minutes

No changes or corrections were brought forward.

**Motion: To approve the minutes of the AGM of September 26, 2022**

**Moved by: Sue                              Seconded by: Wendy**

**Carried**

3. President's Remarks

Joe Chan

Joe thanked everyone who attended the meeting. Last season was an opportunity to transition back to our normal routine – more in person concerts, more traditional rehearsals, had a fun Christmas concert with Lena Horner. Returned to LAC with the Trampled Earth concert –raised awareness with our audience. Resonance had a concert in June. Two additional concerts with MSO – Star Wars and the Planets by Gustav Holst. We go on regular trips – this past summer we went to Spain and Portugal. Wonderful way to end the season. Learned to “walk with purpose”. This year we are taking the next steps to back to where we were by relaunching the Chamber Choir – usually tackle more challenging works and an April concert as well. Festival of Friends is in February with a massed choir. Opportunity to share music with other choristers. Raising Voices is a program with those in our community living with Alzheimers.

40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Gala Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Nineteen new members attending our choir. Welcome to members to our family of choirs and hope we have a long relationship with everyone. Despite the COVID challenges we seem to be flourishing. However, we did lose a number of corporate sponsors. We will be asking members to reach out to their contacts with packages that we will provide. We are also starting a 40 for 40 campaign - \$40.00 per month for 10 months. We also will be restarting our 50/50 drive. We also have a few other fundraising efforts. Fundscrip is our gift card sale. In the spring, we participate in the Mississauga half marathon. Last year we raised over \$6,000. The organization is mostly run by volunteers.

4. Acknowledgements & Appreciations

Joe Chan

- Joe thanked our leads **Glynis, Sabrina, Devin, Matthew** and our accompanist **Carl**, who help guide us on our musical journey.

- This last season, we welcomed our new Assistant Conductor, **Vlad Sovoliev** who provided outstanding musical leadership, along with teaching us a little Ukrainian last season!
- **Pat Patterson** and **Leslie Bentley** who have teamed up and have been doing an amazing job as our music librarians.
- **Barb Kishimoto** who organized our hugely successful Mississauga Marathon fundraiser last spring.
- Our Member section reps: **Tina Pesce**, **Nancy Bowles** and **Martin Poskitt**.
- For our Trampled Earth concert last May, we wanted to thank **Annie Aldworth** and **Catherine Clark** and the rest of organizing team who put together the amazing art exhibit that was displayed in the foyer before & during the concert.

Joe also extended a special thank you to a number of volunteers who are stepping down from their positions:

- **Ian Anderson & Ewa Romanowicz** have provided extensive IT support to MFC and have been instrumental in setting up much of our IT infrastructure. We are indebted to them for providing us with their invaluable guidance on these issues.
- **Kim Durance-Hinds** has been spectacular helping us to create online content for our social media accounts. We thank her for all her efforts.
- As well, an especially huge thank you to **Barb Cogan**, who was your amazing Membership & Volunteer Development Director. Her enthusiasm & spirit were infectious and she was outstanding providing support to all the choristers of MFC. Her visionary and insightful input will be missed at our Board meetings. We have a small token of our appreciation to share with her tonight.

Thanks as well to the rest of the Board of Directors, who have invested an incredible number of hours making sure that everything is taken care of for this wonderful organization:

- **Cindy Cyr**, Past President
- **Scott Mick**, Vice-President
- **Sue Stenton**, Secretary
- **Wendy Chant**, Treasurer
- **Kristan Koehle**, Fundraising

There is also **Jenny Johnston**, our **Choir Administrator**. She has been outstanding working in the background taking care of all the details and supporting all the activities of the Board. She has worked tirelessly over the last few years to move our organization forward.

And, of course, a special thanks to **David Ambrose**, our **Artistic Director**. We are so blessed to have him at the helm guiding us to new heights. His wealth of experience and expertise have been an invaluable resource, especially during these COVID times. His vision and creativity ensures that MFC will grow and flourish in the years ahead.

#### 5. Approval of the Financial Statements – June 30, 2023 \*\*

Wendy Chant

The financial statements were presented having been distributed two weeks earlier to the AGM on the members' website.

**Motion: To approve the Financial Statements of June 30, 2023**

**Moved by: Wendy      Seconded by: Sue Stenton**  
**Carried**

6. Approval of the Budget \*\*

Wendy Chant

The MFC 2023/24 Budget was presented having been distributed two weeks earlier to the AGM on the members' website.

**Motion: To approve MFC's 2023/24 season budget**

**Moved by: Wendy      Seconded by: Cindy Cyr**

Comment by Ron: The revenue seemed to be very low. Is that realistic?

Wendy's response was that she tends to be conservative. Interest went down from our endowment investment. Also hard to anticipate for 40 for 40 campaign. Joe also indicated that it is hard to predict ticket sales.

Question about the Arts & Culture grant – which year does it cover  
Right now we are working on the grant for next year.

Is gala being used as a fundraiser?

Gala is not a fundraiser. Ticket sales will cover the costs for meal and entertainment.

What is the cost? Not certain, in the area of \$100.00

Choral Mosaic – 2023 Is the remaining income from it restricted?

We have recognized all revenues and expenses that were incurred. Some registrations were refunded while other people gave their registrations as a donation. Expenses incurred in prior years were recognized. We netted \$3,000 once all income and expenses were recognized. There are no more deferred/restricted funds relating to Choral Mosaic.

7. Appointment of Auditor

Wendy Chant

**Motion: To appointment J. Bruce Taylor C.P.A to be the auditor for the fiscal year 2022/23**

**Moved by: Wendy Chant      Seconded by: Sue Stenton**

**Motion Carried**

In response to a call for questions, a member asked when the last review of the auditor was made. The response was that we had looked at doing so in 2019 but decided to put it off during the pandemic. Wendy agreed that it should be done and has put it back on her agenda.

8. Nominations and Elections

Joe Chan

Joe Chan presented the following Board positions that have become available this year

	Term	Year
Vice-President	2 years	2023-2025
Treasurer	2 years	2023-2025
Membership & Volunteer Development	2 years	2023-2025

Marketing & Communications	2 years	2023-2025
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The following are the slate of willing candidates presented for these positions:

Vice-President: Scott Mick, Treasurer: Wendy Chant, Membership & Volunteer Coordinator: Janice Maxwell

We still need to recruit a marketing and communications director but we are seeking someone with professional experience, particularly in the area of social media.

**Motion: To elect the presented slate of candidates to the Board of Directors for 2 year terms.**

**Moved by: Cindy Cyr    Seconded by: Sue Stenton**

**Carried**

9. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution Joe Chan  
 Over the years, the role of our Choir Administrator, Jenny Johnston, has evolved. She has taken on more responsibilities behind the scenes and remains indispensable to the organization. In light of this, we are proposing that her title be changed to **Operations Coordinator** to better reflect the work that she does.

**Moved by: Sue Stenton    Seconded by: Cindy Cyr**

**Motion: that the following changes be made to the Constitution to reflect the change in title and responsibilities of the Choir Administrator to Operations Coordinator**

Current	Proposed
<p><b>8.13 Appointment of Choir Administrator</b>            The Board may appoint a Choir Administrator who shall be an ex-officio member of the Board. Remuneration, if any, shall be established by the Board.</p>	<p><b>8.13 Appointment of Operations Coordinator</b>            The Board may appoint an Operations Coordinator who shall be an ex-officio member of the Board. Remuneration, if any, shall be established by the Board.</p>
<p><b>10.02 Choir Administrator</b>            The Choir Administrator is the key staff lead for administrative and business requirements of the Choir with direction provided by the Board. The Choir Administrator provides ongoing administrative support through communications to committee chairs and by attending select committee meetings to ensure consistency in the development and implementation of marketing, communications, fundraising and sponsorship plans, and oversees the ongoing relationship with partners, sponsors and grantors.</p>	<p><b>10.02 Operations Coordinator</b>            The Operations Coordinator is the key staff lead for administrative and operational requirements of the Choir with direction provided by the Board. The Operations Coordinator provides ongoing administrative support to the Board of Directors and assists with the day-to-day administrative requirements of the Choir including, but not limited to, representing the Board with vendors/agencies and serving as the preliminary representative of the Choir to media and other external stakeholders (i.e. inquiries via email and website).</p>

**Motion Carried**

10. Artistic Director's Remarks

David Ambrose

David thanked the Board for their work and grace in managing the difficult COVID years and all of their efforts on behalf of the choir. There are still opportunities for people to sing with Raising Voices. It's a lovely singalong with a small group. There is an orientation and a sign up is available. First training session a week from today. Verdi Requiem is starting its rehearsals. Will start regular Chamber Choir in November focusing on Women Composers. Very excited about the number of new members and the wonderful energy in the room. Looking forward to the coming year.

11. Questions - None

12. Adjournment

**Motion: To adjourn the Sept. 2023 Annual General Meeting of the members of the Mississauga Festival Choir**

**Moved by: Sue Stenton**

**Seconded by: Barb Cogan**

**Carried**

**Meeting ended at 9:28**