ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Monday, September 26th, 2022

8:45pm to 9:30pm

Auditorium, Cooksville United Church

79 members in attendance

Joe Chan, MFC’s President welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Meeting of the Mississauga Festival Choir. He began by presenting the agenda:

* The adoption of the **Agenda** and the **minutes from the previous meeting**
* **President’s Remarks**
* **Acknowledgements and Appreciations**.
* **Approval of Financial Statements**, **Budget** and **Appointment of the Auditor**.
* **Election of new Board members**.
* **Remarks from Artistic Director – David Ambrose**.
* Question from the floor, time permitting

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**

Joe asked for additions to the agenda. There are no items to add

**Motion: to adopt the agenda as distributed**

**The motion was moved by Cindy Cyr and seconded by Barb Cogan**

**Motion carried.**

**2. Adoption of the September 27, 2021 – Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Joe indicated that the minutes had been distributed and asked for any corrections or amendments to the general meeting minutes from Sept. 27, 2021. None were forthcoming.

**Motion: to adopt the September 27, 2021 – Annual General Meeting Minutes as distributed**

**The motion was moved by Barb Cogan and seconded by Scott Mick.**

**Motion carried.**

Barb mentioned that if you are new and have not registered through the NEON system. You will not have received these materials. Barb gave her apologies.

**3. President's Remarks – Joe Chan**

Many thanks to everyone for joining us tonight. This is our first in-person AGM since 2019 and it has certainly been a journey for us.

As you recall, our 2019-20 season came to an abrupt stop in March of 2020 with the COVID lockdowns. The remainder of that season was cancelled as a result.

In our 2020-21 season, COVID was still a concern so out of an abundance of caution, MFC pivoted to a strictly online experience. With this, we had weekly Zoom rehearsals and we created video submissions that were incorporated into 2 virtual concerts. These concerts were hugely successful with the 2 concerts garnering over 26,000 views.

This past season was a transition year, as we adopted a hybrid model to slowly bring back people into in-person rehearsals. Knowing that not everyone was comfortable being in large groups yet, we provided an opportunity for choristers to participate remotely as well. This called for creative solutions to adapt to ever changing environments.

To maintain proper social distancing, we ended up splitting the choir into 2 groups for the fall session. Each group came to rehearsals at different times. As well, we broadcast the rehearsal on Zoom for those who wanted to stay home to participate. Through the fall, we continued to create our video submissions independently. With the help of our video editor, another virtual concert was created for December of 2021.

For the Spring term this year, we made the decision to transition back to an in-person concert in May. While still maintaining social distancing & masking in rehearsals, we were able to prepare for our first concert in LAC since December 2019. David skillfully created a wonderful program of Broadway tunes that were a joy for us to sing and was certainly a crowd pleaser for those who attended.

Resonance, our youth & young adult choir, was also able to have an in-person concert in June this year. Bob Anderson took a break to deal with some health issues last fall and we were thrilled when Kai Leung was able to take the reins and lead the group for this wonderful concert.

For the current season, we are making further strides to return our normal routine. Both our December and May concerts will be in-person, as will the Resonance concert next June. In keeping with current COVID guidelines, we have relaxed vaccine and masking requirements, although we remain vigilant if future risks arise.

As we start this season, it has been wonderful to see so many familiar faces, but also quite a few new ones. For those of you who are new to the MFC, we welcome you to our family and we look forward to getting to know all of you a little better. As well, we want to extend a warm welcome to the latest addition to our artistic team, Vlad Sovoliev, our new Assistant Conductor.

The Board would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all of you, our choristers, for your continued commitment to MFC. You are our family and we want to ensure that this organization continues to grow and flourish despite all of our recent challenges.

Unfortunately, we continue to pause our Raising Voices and the Chamber Choir programs, primarily because of financial constraints. With COVID, many of our traditional corporate sponsors have paused their financial support. We will be looking to you to help us cultivate new sponsors for MFC. You will be receiving promotional material that you can share with your contacts about sponsorship opportunities for MFC. This is a wonderful way for them to support the arts in Mississauga, and also promote their company to our audience. If we can attract more corporate sponsors, we will have the financial means to restart Raising Voices, which is our music program aimed at those with Alzheimers and dementia, as well as our Chamber Choir that showcases more complex choral pieces.

We will also continue our other fundraising efforts, including Fundscrip where you can purchase popular gift cards at regular cost for yourself and your friends & family, and a portion of your purchase gets forwarded to MFC. In the spring, we also encourage you to take part in our Mississauga Marathon fundraiser, where you can get sponsors for walking or running one of the various distances available.

As a choir, we rely heavily on the generous efforts of our volunteers, so I also want to take this opportunity to extend some acknowledgements to some important individuals:

**4. Acknowledgements & Appreciations**

Joe noted how difficult it is to acknowledge everyone who has helped out this year but wanted to extend thanks to a couple of key people who have been immensely helpful keeping MFC moving forward this past year.

* Thank you to our leads **Glynis, Sabrina, Devin, Matthew** and our accompanist **Carl**, who help guide us on our musical journey.
* **Kai Leung,** our video editor who made us look fabulous for our virtual concert last December. As well, he took the helm of Resonance last season when Bob Anderson took a leave-of-absence for his health issues.
* **Ian Anderson** and **Ewa Romanowicz** for their awesome technical support.
* **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.
* **Kim Durance Hine** for her work with our social media presence.
* Our Member section reps: **Tina Pesce**, **Nancy Bowles** and **Martin Poskitt.**

Thanks as well to our tireless 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
* **Barb Cogan**, Membership & Volunteer Development

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, 2021 \*\***

**Motion: that the choir membership approve the Financial Statements dated June 30, 2022 as distributed**

**The motion was moved by Wendy Chant and seconded by Sue Stenton.**

There was a call for discussion or questions. As there were no questions or comments, the vote was called**.**

**Motion carried.**

**6. Approval of the Budget \*\***

**Motion: that the choir membership approve the budget for the 2022/2023 season as presented**.

**The motion was moved by Wendy Chant and seconded by Cindy Cyr**

There was a call for discussion or questions. There was a question about Choral Mosaic and if it was going to proceed. Joe responded that David would address this in his remarks later in the meeting.

**Motion carried.**

**7.** **Appointment of the Auditor**

**Motion: that the choir membership appoint J Bruce Taylor, CPA, to be the auditor for the fiscal year 2022/23**

**The motion was moved by Wendy Chant and seconded by Scott Mick.**

There was a call for discussions or questions. As there was neither the vote was called

**Motion carried.**

**8. Nominations and Elections -** Cindy Cyr

Each year, we have elections for half the members of our Board. This year, the positions of President, Secretary, Fundraising and Marketing & Communications are up for re-election. The 3 incumbents have offered to continue in their current positions. A search is ongoing for a suitable candidate for the Marketing & Communications position, who ideally has professional experience in this field and is well-versed in social media.

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|  | Term | Year | Candidate |
| President | 2 years | 2022-2024 | **Joe Chan** |
| Secretary | 2 years | 2022-2024 | Sue Stenton |
| Fundraising | 2 years | 2022-2024 | Kristan Koehle |
| Marketing & Communications | 2 years | 2022-2024 | *(open)* |

Cindy called for any nominations from the floor. As no other nominations were received the following Motion was made:

**Motion:** **that the nominees presented for the position of President, Secretary and Fundraising are hereby elected to their positions for a 2 year term**

**Moved by Barb Cogan and seconded by Scott Mick.**

There was a call for discussion or questions. None were received and the vote was called.

**Motion carried.**

**9. Artistic Director's Remarks - David Ambrose**

**Hard to believe that it has been 3 yrs. since our last in person AGM. We had no idea what the road map was going to be. Hard to believe that we are back with 130 plus singers. It is a tribute to our Board, singers and audience for the hard work. I’m excited about the new singers who have joined us and want you to feel part of our family. Hoping for a wonderful concert this December and I’m excited about our partnership with the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra. Our spring concert will be a more somber topic but hopefully a time of reflection. It’s our 40th birthday at the end of next season. We are hoping to restore the programs/choirs/event that we had to let go of over the pandemic – Chamber Choir, Raising Voices, Festival of Friends. We are putting forth a proposal that we will commission a new choral work for every concert that we present in the 2024. We will be engaging as many people as possible to help to raise funds so that we can bring new music to our organization.**

**We have tried to reschedule Choral Mosaic numerous times. People were given the option to get their money back. Most people have kept the funds with us. We will be making a decision soon, but there are still questions about people would feel about attending a large choral conference. If we say no to it this time, it does not mean that it will never happen. However, it is a different world right now, but we will look at it again when the time is right.**

**Registration for our tour of Portugal and Spain has been extended until the end of October. If you are interested keep an eye on your newsletter or talk to Carolyn Piitz our tour organizer. Thanks to the Board for all the work that they have done to keep us viable and with a strong membership. Huge thank you and looking forward to the rest of the season.**

**Ron question: Will the Festival of Friends not be around again this year?**

**Answer: We intend to bring it back but not at this time. Still some concerns about the large number of participants. We are committed to bringing it back in the future.**

David was thanked by Joe for his remarks as well as for his outstanding contributions.

**10. Adjournment**

**Moved by Sue Stenton and seconded by Barb Cogan that the “Annual General Meeting be adjourned”. With no one opposed, the Annual General Meeting for the Mississauga Festival Choir was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.**