



# Don't call it a choir...

WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF SINGERS

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pn: she/her/hers

# The Present: Community During COVID-19

- ▶ Goal: Foster Ownership and Belonging During Isolation
  - ▶ Step One: Let go of ego and share the load.
  - ▶ Step Two: Survey stakeholders to address needs.
    - ▶ Administration, Board Members, Singers, Family, Friends, Greater Community

# Our Singer Survey

- ▶ Question 1: Until we can meet again in person, I would prefer our rehearsal time to be filled with...
  - ▶ In-depth music study and practice
  - ▶ A mixture of music and community building
  - ▶ Community building and checking in. I am confident that I can learn my music with the resources already provided to me.
- ▶ Question 2: I would appreciate having...
  - ▶ Information about vocal technique
  - ▶ Videos of great choirs for inspiration
  - ▶ Videos of our conductors working with recordings of our pieces as a practice resource
- ▶ Question 3: Please list any additional ideas you might have for our time together while we have to participate remotely.
  - ▶ THIS was the gamechanger! Everyone was so creative

# Things we have done since March 18

- ▶ Sectionals using breakout rooms on Zoom
- ▶ Crash course in Takadimi
- ▶ Sight Singing 101
- ▶ Virtual Choir Team
  - ▶ Explored Karen Siegel's composition "Here I Am," specifically to be sung over Zoom or other online platform. For more information: <http://www.c4ensemble.org>
- ▶ Chat with a composer
- ▶ Pub Trivia
- ▶ Name That Tune
- ▶ Online Games: Jackbox, Cards Against Humanity, etc.
- ▶ Silly Viral Videos
- ▶ Singing "Happy Birthday"
- ▶ Sharing Celebrations and Supporting Difficulties

What we have gained...

Time for reflection and appreciation

Deeper personal relationships and stronger friendships

We are not just a choir—we are a community of singers



# The Immediate Future: What Happens Now?

- ▶ Scenario 1: remain 100% virtual
  - ▶ Maintain the community we have built and continue meeting online
    - ▶ Virtual Choir
    - ▶ Singing Telegrams
    - ▶ Online Exchanges with Other Musical Organizations
    - ▶ Chats with Composers
    - ▶ Skill Building and Master Classes
      - ▶ IPA and Diction
      - ▶ Vocal Pedagogy
      - ▶ Music Theory – what do DC and DS actually mean?

# What Happens Now? (cont'd)

- ▶ Scenario 2: hybrid rehearsal meetings
  - ▶ Half choir in person, half at home
  - ▶ Smaller “living room” ensembles
  - ▶ Take rehearsals and performances outside, even for just a few pieces
- ▶ Scenario 3: full regular rehearsals
  - ▶ Understanding that public performances will be a challenge for some time

# The Long-Term Future: Post Quarantine

- ▶ Internal Community:

- ▶ Try to take what we did online into the the real world and budget extra time for the singers to connect
- ▶ Secret Singers
- ▶ Singer Buddies
- ▶ Social Section Leaders

# External Community: Collaborations

- ▶ Join with another choir or instrumental ensemble to perform a major work.
- ▶ Share a concert with another local organization. Not only does this help you gain exposure to new audience members, but also eases the amount of music to prepare. Sing something together with both groups for even more feel-good fun.
- ▶ Support a cause – “When you can combine your passion with the thing that breaks your heart, then you have found your calling.” – Katie Richards, Music Wellness Director, Urban Voices Project

# External Community: Scholarships & Sponsorships

- ▶ Since our founding, Resounding Achord has given nearly \$40,000 in scholarship funds to high school students for the Regional and All-State Honor Choirs, and roughly \$10,000 in unrestricted gifts to local arts organizations
- ▶ Step One: Ask your local teachers what they need
  - ▶ Funds for trips, uniforms, instruments, or other tangible goods
  - ▶ Support with volunteering
  - ▶ Value of life-long singing
- ▶ Step Two: Figure out your budget
  - ▶ It doesn't have to be extravagant!
- ▶ Step Three: Show and Tell

# More External Community Builders

- ▶ Summer Conducting Lab
  - ▶ Un-auditioned and open to the public, providing students and early-career conductors with the opportunity to conduct a full ensemble
  - ▶ Conductors receive feedback from two master teachers
  - ▶ <http://resoundingachord.org/2019/05/20/summer-conducting-lab/>
- ▶ Support for Emerging Composers
  - ▶ Partner with local universities as a resource choir for student composers
- ▶ Guest Workshops
  - ▶ Another collaboration opportunity – invite a superstar conductor or artist to offer a workshop, and invite other choirs to participate.



We don't conduct choirs.  
We create communities.