

## **GYS Parent Meeting – September 16, 2021**

**6:00 p.m. – through Zoom**

**GYS Vision:** *We support the well-being of youth through inclusive, fun, and high-quality musical training and performance experiences.*

**GYS Mission:** *To create an inclusive and supportive musical environment where youth in our community can learn, build confidence, and share in something bigger than themselves*

**Land acknowledgement:** *The Guelph Youth Singers acknowledge that the land on which we live, learn, and sing is the ancestral land of the Attawandaron people, and the treaty land and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land as well as our responsibility to the land and future generations. We are committed to reconciliation and to building and strengthening our relationships with our First Nations, Inuit and Métis neighbours.*

### **Welcome and introductions [Heather Mair, President]**

Heather welcomed everyone and described GYS as a non-profit organization and what that entails. The Board introduced themselves. We currently have 7 Board members and there is a strong call for new board members. Please consider joining! Please send Heather Mair an email if you are interested in joining the GYS Board or want more information.

Karen Arnold, Heather Montgomery, and Renee Bowler-Avdoulos have joined the 2021-2022 Board.

Please see below for the current Board of Directors.

### **Motion to approve 2021-2022 GYS Board of Directors**

Proposed: Fiona Hatfield

Seconded: Lisa Blenkinsop

Approved By All

**Financial Report/Auditor's Report** [Ben Hatfield, Treasurer]

Ben shared a recap of last year's budget and our year end. Our revenues were higher than what we budgeted because of strong registrations, government donations, and private sector donations. We have ended the year in a good position for the upcoming year.

This year, we are focussing on a return to "normal" and continuing to pay the GYS team proper wages. If this year's budget becomes reality, we can expect healthy finances the following year. Next year we forecast that government support will not be as robust and therefore we need to drive registrations for next year and beyond.

**Motion to approve Auditor for the 2021-2022 Season**

Proposed: Ben Hatfield

Seconded: Genny Barlow

Approved By All

**Season Overview** [Markus Howard, Artistic Director]

Markus is excited to work with our choristers, no matter our numbers, to make each choir in GYS the best they can be. He will be programming music that will give choristers many "wins" within the season. GYS has been commended throughout the choir community for our successful year last year. GYS has been invited by many community groups to engage.

Markus discussed youth mental health and how choir can be a balm in the life of a young person. If people know of people in their communities who would benefit from choir, please tell them about GYS.

**Admin Report and Fundraising Plan** [Heather Fleming, Choir Coordinator]

This year GYS will have a December poinsettia fundraiser, a Spring hanging basket fundraiser, Giving Tuesday, and our online auction as well as other fundraisers like last year's successful online paint night. Heather is hoping to have help from volunteers with fundraising and promotions.

We are also looking to continue to promote GYS and are becoming more of a presence on social media.

GYS is implementing a new online theory program that is free with registration.

Heather also highlighted our bursary program and our new invite a chorister registration discount.

**Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Anti-Racism Committee** [Lisa Blenkinsop]

Lisa touched on the safe return plan and reiterated that the safe return plan will continually change.

In our survey, the vast majority of families believed that GYS was a supportive environment for our children. Lisa talked about the barriers to joining GYS and the things we are doing to help remove those barriers.

We will be looking at changing our uniforms to make them more inclusive, we will be looking into EDI and anti-racism training for staff and choristers and will be continuing to use more inclusive language in our promotions. We will also work to make GYS more diverse and to make everyone feel included once they are members of GYS.

**Questions and Discussion**

**Adjournment – 7 p.m.**

**GYS Board of Directors and Staff**

<b>GYS Board of Directors</b>		<b>GYS Staff Members</b>	
President	Heather Mair	Artistic Director & Conductor	Markus Howard
Vice-President	Vacant	Choirs I&II Conductor	Marion Samuel-Stevens
Treasurer	Ben Hatfield	Choir Coordinator	Heather Fleming
Secretary	Elisha Funk	Accompanist	Ken Gee
Coordinator of Promotions	Vacant	Bookkeeper	Cathy Meggison
Coord. of Fundraising	Vacant	Assistant Choir Coordinator	Sammie Becker
Coord. of Tours	Vacant		
Member at large	Fiona Hatfield		
Member at large	Genny Barlow (youth rep)		
Member at large	Lisa Blenkinsop		
Member at large	Sheila O'Reilly (community rep)		
Member at large Member at large Member at large	Heather Montgomery Karen Arnold Renee Bowler-Avdoulos		