

Guelph Youth Singers Parent Meeting & Annual General Meeting – September 15, 2022

6:00 p.m. – via 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, Past-President]

Meeting called to order at 6:07pm. Heather welcomed everyone and introduced the Board of Directors. Open positions were highlighted, and attendees and other community members interested in the work of GYS were encouraged to consider joining the Board. As a not-for-profit organization, having an active Board of Directors is essential for the functioning of GYS. Individuals who may be interested may contact the Choir Coordinator for more information.

Recent accomplishments of the GYS Board were shared, including:

- Navigating the financial challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Establishment and work of the *Safe Return Committee* to guide choir functioning during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Development of *GYS Summer Camp* programming
- Establishing the *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee*
- Review and updating of *GYS Mission, Vision, and Logo*

Sponsors and supporters of fundraising initiatives were acknowledged and thanked

Gratitude was expressed to the departing Board of Directors members. Special thanks and best wishes were shared for Heather Mair's service as President of the Board.

Season Overview [Markus Howard, Artistic Director]

Markus is looking forward to his 8th season as Artistic Director and expressed gratitude to all who contribute to GYS. With chorister numbers still lower than usual due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this year, the senior choirs will be combined to create a *Chamber Choir*. Markus aims to build a strong musical community as we all recover from a very challenging time. He shared that the first rehearsal welcomed a motivated group of singers who are aiming for excellence. There has been good retention of members from last year, and new members will be welcomed.

Some exciting opportunities for GYS were shared including:

- CBC music competition
- *Side by Side* - A joint community concert with *Guelph Chamber Choir*, *University of Guelph Choirs*, and *Rainbow Chorus*
- Return of the *GYS Winter Concert*
- Fun events such as a *Coffee House* and a *Broadway Night*
- *Kiwanis Music Festival*
- *GYS Spring Concert*

Markus noted that there are a number of requests for community collaborations with GYS. He noted that decisions about these opportunities will be made mindfully, with the well-being of GYS members kept central.

No questions were posed to Markus.

Choir I & II Overview [Marion Samuel-Stevens, Choir I & II Conductor]

Marion shared that the first rehearsal of the year welcomed about 20 energetic and enthusiastic young singers. She noted that the group exhibited a desire to learn.

Aims for Choirs I & II were shared including:

- Developing healthy vocal technique
- Preparation for future choral work

- Learning musical foundations such as sight singing and ear training

Events for Choirs I & II were shared, including:

- *Choir Carnival*
- *GYS Winter Concert*
- *Bring a Friend* and other themed rehearsals

A question about Choir I vs. II was posed. Marion noted that as chorister numbers remain lower than pre-pandemic, the choirs will be combined for now. Joining the choirs does offer mentorship opportunities for choristers.

A question was posed about whether individual vocal coaching will be offered for Choir I & II members. Interest in this will be gauged and the possibility will be explored.

Board of Directors Elections

The slate of volunteers for the Board of Directors was shared. More volunteers were requested. It was noted that there is a thorough *Board of Directors Governance Manual* available on the GYS website for interested individuals to review. Attendees were informed that legally, the Board must maintain a certain number of directors (minimum 7). GYS also welcomes volunteers in a number of other capacities, such as fundraising initiatives and event support.

Motion to approve 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Proposed: Ben Hatfield

Seconded: Karie Bilger

Approved by Consensus

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

GYS Financial Report for 2021-2022 was presented. Some key points included a small financial shortfall (related to COVID-19 Pandemic). Another financial shortfall is predicted for the coming season, as chorister enrollment is still lower than pre-pandemic, and grants related to pandemic recovery are ending. Successful fundraising initiatives and rebuilding chorister numbers will be significant for decreasing this shortfall.

Financial Report 2021-2022 Vote

Vote will happen via email to give individuals a chance to review the report further, and ensure quorum is reached.

Motion to Approve Auditor [CS&D Accountants] for 2022-2023 Season

Proposed: Ben Hatfield

Seconded: Mark Luyt

Approved by Consensus

Reminders and Adjournment

Reminders provided about weekly *GYS Memos*, *Bring a Friend* rehearsals, ongoing chorister recruitment, and bursary opportunities.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.