

January 14, 2019

Memorandum

To: Darlene Zickefoose, Resident Council Chair

From: Roger Fendall, Chair, Music Committee

Subject: 2018 Music Committee Annual Report

A Summary of Committee Accomplishments in 2018

Our Music Committee has been functioning regularly for the past year, with the exception of the summer months when we discontinue monthly meetings from June through August as folks often take time to vacation and travel. Our committee consists of Judie Abrahamson, Janet Lyda, Phyllis Kirkwood, Sam Morse, and myself as Chair.

The past year saw some transitions from the several music groups that have functioned in previous years. The Patriarchs, or men's chorus, was discontinued at the end of 2017 to allow for the combining of men's and women's voices into the Mixed Choir that functioned throughout 2018. The lack of first tenor singers in the community figured heavily into that decision. The Brass ensemble, tried to reorganize with new leadership, but never really succeeded, and was not able to function through 2018. The Women's Chorus discontinued rehearsals with the organization of the Mixed Choir. The ladies trio, the Silver Belles, functioned occasionally, but is not now rehearsing as they no longer plan to sing together.

One of the first accomplishments of the committee was an extensive survey of the members of the Friendsview community to determine those in our midst who had an interest in being an active part of the various music programs, whether it was an interest in vocal or instrumental individual performance or being part of an ensemble or choral group. From that survey, conducted primarily by Judie Abrahamson and Janet Lyda, we developed a roster of community members interested in and seeking involvement in the music programs of the community. This roster will continue to be upgraded to include new members with musical talents and participation interests.

The committee continued to see that Guest Pianists performed at Thursday Dining Room dinners on a monthly basis. In addition, Sheri Bowman continued as a Guest Pianist at monthly Sunday dinners in the FV Dining Room. When our committee budget ran low in September, Kathryn Saunders agreed to provide a complimentary meal for Shari as she is not a member of the Friendsview community. Kathryn paid for Shari's meals through the end of the year with funds from her office.

The committee changed the wording of the sign that limits the use of the grand piano. While continuing to restrict its usage to rehearsals, worship services, and special

occasions, the message is stated in a friendly manner and offers assistance in opening and closing the piano correctly.

Because of larger attendance at services, Phyllis Kirkwood purchased 20 additional hymnals and dedicated them to the memory of Priscilla Jeffery, longtime Music Committee member and proponent of furthering music programs in our community.

In order to make an organ key available to guests artists, it was determined that a key would be hung on a hook in the sound booth. Nikki Deckon arranged for this, and the sound technicians and maintenance personnel were made aware.

We continue to be blessed as having a community of quality musicians who are willing to share their passion of music with others in the community.

The Committee's Use of Budgeted Funds in 2018

While some of our allocated funds paid for Guest Pianists each month, the bulk of our expenditures during the year were used to purchase new music for the mixed choir. We spent less than \$50 for Guest Pianist meals who were not members of the Friendsview community, while the balance of the allocated \$325 from the Resident's Council went to purchase some badly needed new music for the choir. We are nearing a point in our purchase of new music where we have sufficient music for some time into the future, considering that we intend to purchase more choir music this fiscal year. We now have about 5-6 musical programs that we can rotate through for twice yearly concerts, as our audiences really do not remember much about what was sung during the past year. They just appreciate hearing the choir sing, and they turn out in capacity crowds just about each and every concert.

During the past year, the mixed choir prepared two performances of a collection of hymns of the church arranged by Tom Fettke. We had overflow crowds at both performances, and then were asked to perform at the Twin Rocks Centennial Celebration in mid-July. Twin Rocks even provided coach transportation to and from the event at Twin Rocks Campground, which was a real treat for the choir and their spouses. We repeated the music at Twin Rocks which we had sung in May here at Friendsview, and it was well received. There were well over 800 people present at the Centennial Celebration, and we very likely had a fourth of them stop by and listen as we sang in the outdoor venue. It was a great opportunity to expose those folks to our retirement community here in Newberg.

In September of last year, we began rehearsals for a Christmas program, and this effort was culminated with two concerts in early December. I specifically picked and chose the best numbers from several sources of music that we have used since my involvement with the choir beginning in 2008. We performed two identical concerts to near capacity crowds, and many, many in the audience lingered after the audience was dismissed to express their appreciation for our efforts.

Future and Short-Term goals of the Music Committee

There will be some internal shifts in the leadership as well as the makeup of the Music Committee as we move ahead this year. I have proposed that I step down as Chair of the committee, and have asked Phyllis Kirkwood to assume that responsibility, pending the full committee approval of that action at our upcoming January meeting scheduled for January 18th. I am sure Phyllis will be approved and that she will continue to carry on the work of the committee in fine fashion. I have served on the committee for the past several years, including when Fred Knight and Priscilla Jeffery chaired the committee efforts. It is time for me to step down as chair, and shift my focus entirely on the mixed choir efforts. That is a demanding responsibility, but one that for me is very rewarding.

Additionally, Judie Abrahamson is stepping out of the committee makeup, citing a need to reduce her involvement in the activities within the Friendsview community. She is a highly capable person who finds herself very busy, and is very effective in anything she decides to do. I wish her well as she fine-tunes her community involvements.

We asked for, and were granted, an increase in our committee funding allocation by the Resident's Council. We will continue to build on our existing library of music resources for the mixed choir and any other music group that develops during the next few years. We are committed to the goal of making music an important part of this retirement community.

We have scheduled the beginning of rehearsals of the mixed choir for mid-February, with two concerts projected for mid-May. We will be using music that we have used in 2013 which is a collection of songs of redemption entitled, *Near the Cross*, arranged for choir by Dick Bolks, an excellent contemporary music writer and arranger published by Lillenas in 1980. We already have sufficient copies of this music on hand as we did that here at Friendsview in the Spring of 2013. I am hopeful that we will, once again, fill the platform with enthusiastic singers.

We will also plan for a Christmas musical program in early December of this year. Our choir has grown from slightly more than 30 singers in the late 2017 season, and we had 49 singers participating in our December, 2018, concerts. It has been really fun to provide leadership for this group of singers. I have been grateful for the support of Janet Lyda, our very capable pianist, and my brother, Gary Fendall, for his accompaniment at the bass viol.

A Lingering Concern

Darlene, I continue to be very frustrated with two areas that I have not been able to resolve. Perhaps Phyllis will make some inroads on the things that are needed to make them more acceptable:

First, I have been unable to convince the Dining Room catering staff that their invoices have caused me considerable time and unnecessary effort in the approval process that underlies the payment procedure for the complimentary meals provided for Guest Pianists on twice-monthly dinner sessions. The invoice I am asked to approve does not indicate who the Guest Pianist is, and simply asks me to approve payment for "x" number of meals @ the going rate. I cannot accomplish that approval without spending an inordinate amount of time running down just who the Guest Pianist was, then determining whether or not the complimentary meal was a valid expense for payment by our committee. I have raised this concern with you before, Darlene, but nothing has been done to remove this busy work from my responsibility. If the invoice simply indicated the name of the Guest Pianist, I could check that name against the current Friendsview membership roster, and I could approve or disapprove the payment of the invoice. Why, for Heavens sake, is that so difficult to include with the invoice? I have spent literally hours trying to determine the validity of approving those payments during the past year. That is nonsense, and totally unnecessary in my view. When you and I get an invoice from a business for products or services rendered, the invoice almost always includes who received services, for what, when, as well as the total payment being requested.

Secondly, we need to find a place somewhere in the building in which to store our growing music materials. Yes, there is a cabinet down under the Health Center in a locked room, where we currently store our music. In the first place, it is inadequate considering the volume of music we now have, most of which is in my Meadow Way duplex in the attic and a spare bedroom. What happens when I am no longer here? Secondly, the storage room under the Health Center is not the best place to store music in terms of temperature and humidity. Thirdly, in order to access this material, one has to run down someone in Maintenance and request that they open the room so that access is available. This music belongs to Friendsview, and should be available to anyone with a legitimate reason to sort through it as needed and use it for what it was intended. Yes, it can be trimmed down somewhat, and our committee could probably head up that effort, as much of what we have is excessive and not used. Just thought you ought to know...