

EVM General Manager's Report
29.March 2009
Board Meeting

ADMINISTRATION

GRANTS:

No news regarding EVM's two grant applications currently under review. The Community Spirit grants will be announced some time in April.

Singer Retreats:

In setting the dates for EVM's singer retreat, there were two main issues. The first was that the large recreation hall is available, and the second was that there is enough time to properly organise the retreat and give new members time enough to feel comfortable with the group before committing to attend. The first available weekend after Thanksgiving was requested as being optimal for EVM.

Bookings to 2012:

- 2009: 20-22.November
- 2010: 19-21.November
- 2011: 11-13.November
- 2012: 16-18.November

The camp is not yet accepting booking beyond 2012.

EVM Accompanist 2009-2010 Season:

Paula has spoken to Brad about continuing next season, to ascertain his interest and if he is willing and able to make the trip to Winnipeg. Brad seems amenable to both continuing and to booking his schedule so that he can travel to the Unison festival.

Both Paula and I recommend that Brad be engaged as the accompanist for the 2009-2010 season.

PUBLICITY/COMMUNICATIONS

PRIDE FAIR:

Although EVM has participated in the Pride Fair the past few seasons, changes to the regulations covering participation need to be considered if the choir wants to book a space again in June.

Because the Fair has become quite popular, the organising committee wants to ensure that all exhibitor booths are staffed for the entire afternoon from 2:30 until 7:30. Set up will begin at 11:30 am. Does the choir have enough people who would be willing to volunteer? Maybe three two-hour shifts (including set-up time)? It would be best if there were two people staffing the booth at all times, so twelve people would be needed.

The Committee is also going to be evaluating the exhibitors applications based on the quality of the display and whether it is of general interest.

The cost is still only \$60 including the rental of the table, but there should be some additional funds set aside for display creation.

Perhaps random appearances of the choir around the Fair area could be arranged. Small groups of maybe six people singing a couple pride-type tunes in unison or simple harmony dressed up in concert gear would be very eye-catching and generate some buzz. Go where the people are!

An application must be submitted by 15.May, so it does give the Board and the choir some time to think it over, find out if it would conflict with any fundraising commitment on that day, and see if there would be a commitment from the members to staff the booth and turn out to sing a few tunes.

PRODUCTION

FEBRUARY 2009 CONCERT:

- 85 advance tickets were sold with revenue of \$1,554.71. This does not include tickets purchased at the door. Womospace will be sending the information on concert tickets bought at the door on the night of the concert.
- Based on ticket stubs taken at the door, 170 people attended the concert portion of the evening, a slight increase over June 2008 and in keeping with the choir's average from the past several seasons.

A special thank-you to Dennis and Judy Korop and Jerry Archer for once again supplying the extra time and effort involved with transporting the risers and sets back and forth to the storage space. Thank you also to Kirsten who put on the managerial hat for the last part of the evening.

Musically the feedback from the audience was very positive, with several saying that the choir had never sounded better.

JUNE 2009 CONCERT:

- The venue is fully secured for the 19. June concert at the RAM Theatre.
- The contract makes provision for serving refreshments once again during the intermission. Although it is a bit of a pain for the singers, it really was a big hit with the audience.
- Cool door prizes need to be purchased or assembled.
- The Production Committee will not be renting a van for the June concert.
- Darrin Hagen will be hosting the show with the intention of working with choir members in formulating the script.

UNISON 2010:

Paula and I will be talking to Darrin Hagen about the possibility of helping us create a short "show" for EVM to take to Winnipeg. Perhaps based on some of his Edmonton Queen anecdotes.

Ideally the choir would be able to present a pre-tour performance at a small venue such as the Unitarian Church before hitting the road, so that the first public performance would not be at the Unison Festival. The show could also become the centrepiece of the June 2010 concert.