



## Manitoba Choral Association Inc. Annual General Meeting

Saturday, October 17, 2020  
Virtual Meeting – Zoom  
11:00 am

### Draft Minutes

**Present:** Catherine Robbins (Chair), Marilyn Redekop, Adam Kilfoyle, Brittany Mielnichuk, Edward Cloud, Janna Banman, Leanne Cooper-Carrier, Maureen Britton, David Sawatzky, Michelle Chzyk, Naomi Russell, Millie Hildebrand, Sharon Marshall, Stephanie Pinette, Stuart Sladden, Sonya Williams, Gordon Plant, Avonlea Armstrong-Green, Melanie Urichuk, Janet Brenneman (CMU Choirs – voting), Ron Krug, Derek Morphy (Honorary Member), Donna Platt (Good Neighbours Choristers – voting), Katy Harmer, Jeff Green, Elizabeth Gebauer (Strathclair Theatre Chorus – voting), Vic Hooper, Karyn Kumhyr (Rainbow Harmony Project – voting), Jorrel Camuyong, Rosemary Komadowski (Assiniboine Chorus – voting), Carole Carlson (Assiniboine Chorus), Scott Reimer, Jenny Steinke-Magnus (recording)

1. **Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 11:09 AM. Catherine did a land acknowledgement, and noted that it is great to see so many faces on the call.
2. **Adoption of Agenda:**

**MOTION 1:** That the agenda be adopted  
(M/S Naomi Russell/Michelle Chzyk) CARRIED.
3. **Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting:**

**MOTION 2:** That the minutes from the 2019 AGM be approved as presented  
(M/S David Sawatzky/Millie Hildebrand) CARRIED.
4. **Auditors' Report and Financial Statements:** Adam reviewed the financial statements that were circulated. The Exchange Group has provided a clean audit opinion. The Board approved the statements this morning. We did very well over the past year, and are ending the fiscal year with a surplus of around \$5,000. There are some minor edits to change after this meeting, including a change of the new lease end date to be 2023, a change to the 2019 budget column to 2020, and the wording of "Canada Employment Wage Subsidy" to "Temporary Employment Wage Subsidy". Adam will take care of this after the meeting.

5. **Approval of Financial Statements:**

**MOTION 3:** That the audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2020 be approved as presented  
(M/S Adam Kilfoyle/Ron Krug) CARRIED.

6. **Board of Directors Reports:** Catherine gave an overview of the Board reports. We are proud of the many initiatives MCA has undertaken this year, thanks to the dedication of our Board members and the drive of our Executive Director.

The Board passed a strategic plan in June (included in the AGM documents). Please review our updated mission statement, guiding values, and strategic and operational goals. Thanks to Sonya, Stuart, Jenny and Catherine for working on this document.

Despite discouraging and challenging times, MCA is working hard to stay relevant. We are optimistic that MCA can continue to plan good quality programming for community. We rely on countless hours of volunteer hours to run our programs—thank you to all Board members, committee members, and volunteers.

We are fortunate to have strong connections with the regions. We hope that many will get involved in the virtual events being planned in the regions. Thank you to our regional representatives—David, Maureen, Edward and Michelle—and thank you to Millie for keeping everything up to date on the website.

Catherine reviewed some of the highlights from 2019-20:

- **Funding:** We have had a strong year financially and we are poised to deal with the difficulties of the pandemic. Millie has solicited numerous gifts from donors and we have benefitted greatly from Millie's tenacity and spirit. We participated in the Canada Helps Giving Challenge in June and raised \$3,000. Jenny has also pursued grants for MCA—see her report for more details. We recognize that we need to broaden our fundraising scope this year, and evaluate the position of Fund Development Chair on the Board.
- **Office Space:** In May 2019 we decided to start looking for new office space. We are thrilled to announce that we will be moving to the CMU south campus on November 1. This will save on rent costs considerably.
- **Membership:** We boasted strong numbers as of June 2020. Currently we have 1/3 of this number. We hope we can turn this around by offering strong virtual programming and resources to members this year. Catherine thanked Stephanie for all the work she had done over her two terms as Membership Chair.
- **Library:** We are preparing to move our most significant resource. Over the past 6 months, Janna and her library committee have been busy culling, sorting, and entering data in our music library to make sure it is accessible and updated.
- **Marketing & Communications:** Leanne took over in February after Karen's sudden passing. She took the reigns and has helped developed a very strong presence on social media. We have decided to suspend *Noteworthy*, focusing instead on communicating with the membership through *eNotes*. Music Monday and Tried &

True moved online, and this took a lot of time and work with the committee. Thank you to Leanne and Jenny.

- **ChoralFest & PHC:** ChoralFest has been a meaningful event for MCA for over 30 years. Last year's ChoralFest was a huge success. Registration was once again strong, although we would like to engage more early years choirs in the future. Thank you to Sonya & Brittany for running such a smooth event! PHC was also a great success. Registration for the event reached capacity and beyond, and the gala concert was sold out. Thank you to Marilyn and her committee. These flagship programs are cancelled this season, but we are working on virtual offerings, so look for those in the upcoming months.
- **Professional Development:** Carrie Tennant gave a workshop before the PHC weekend. We had great participation through our Tried & True video submissions as well. We are planning to mount several online PD events this year. Tempo is also under the PD umbrella. There are a number of virtual workshops/webinars being offered this year for this conference. Thank you to Sharon Marshall & the committee for their work.
- **Awards & Competitions:** The Bert Kroeker Scholarship was awarded to John Eisma, and the inaugural winner of the David G.H. Waters Hymn Sing Memorial Award was Kathleen Murphy. We have received several nominations for MCA's newly established Awards of Distinction, and will announce recipients over the coming weeks. The winner of the Frances Seaton Choral Composition Competition was Scott Reimer. Thank you to FCMM for making the competition a possibility! Stay tuned for a virtual release of Scott's piece, *Be Love*, in the New Year.
- **COVID-19 Initiatives:** We contributed to webinar planning with Choral Canada, and the national COVID-impact survey. MCA sent a letter to the Manitoba government in June and we were granted a meeting. We are concerned that up-to-date research is not being taken into consideration to update the provincial guidelines. We sent the Province guidelines we had developed, and have forwarded research to them, to no avail. MCA has started a petition and we are at 2,000 signatures. We will be sending it to the government soon. Jenny has spoken to CTV News, and the Winnipeg Free Press for interviews.

Catherine summarized MCA's plans for 2020-21. Stuart has taken on the chair role of the special programming committee. We will continue to support and engage with the choral community this year. We look forward to providing our programming and services again in person in the future, but until then we will be busy with virtual programming and all of our other activities.

Catherine shared a few final reflections on her post as President, and again thanked Bboard members, volunteers, members, donors, and the Executive Director. She specifically thanked outgoing board members Kim Jones and Millie Hildebrand. She noted that Stephanie will be leaving her post as Membership Chair but taking on the Norman Rep role in Kim's place. Catherine also thanked John Balsillie at MBA for keeping us in the loop about grants and other funding opportunities.

**MOTION 4:** That all reports be accepted as presented  
(M/S Naomi/Millie) CARRIED.

7. **Awards of Distinction:** We have had nominations in all three categories, and we will be notifying winners in the coming weeks and share that with the membership. We are thrilled to recognize the incredible talent and support in our community! Today, we are happy to award our highest honour—that of **Honorary Membership**—to **Vic Hooper and Ron Krug**. This honour is reserved for people who have distinguished themselves for a number of years in service to MCA.

Millie Hildebrand talked about Vic's contributions to MCA and the Manitoba choral community. He has dedicated many years to the choral arts and has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to choristers in this province. He has served as chair of the MCA Marketing and Communications Committee, and has volunteered countless hours over the years as our webmaster, graphics coordinator, email blast coordinator, and more. He was also instrumental in establishing our flagship programs. He is still involved with PHC as well.

Marilyn Redekop talked about Ron's contributions to MCA and the Manitoba choral community. After moving to Winnipeg in the late 60s, Ron became involved in the choral scene here as a chorister and pianist. Ron was connected to MCA right from the beginning, developing the music library, and later on, becoming Rob Neufeld's right financial hand. Over the years he has also been a very important member of PHC committee (almost a co-chair!).

Catherine thanked both Vic and Ron for all of their work over the years, and Jenny did a ceremonial virtual pinning of the 10-K gold MCA pins for both of them. The pins will be delivered after the meeting.

8. **Revision of By-Laws:** Jenny presented proposed changes to the by-laws that have already been approved by the board. These mainly revolve around updating outdated gendered language and committee descriptions:
- Communications Committee: removing reference to Noteworthy, updating language to be more general and current.
  - Endowment Fund & Bert Kroeker Scholarship Committees: removing reference to both committees to reflect current reality that these are ad-hoc committees struck only when needed.

**MOTION 5:** That the updated by-laws be approved as presented  
(M/S Sharon Marshall/David Sawatzky) CARRIED.

9. **Appointment of Auditors for 2020/2021 Fiscal Year:**

**MOTION 6:** That The Exchange Group be appointed as our Auditors for the 2020/2021 fiscal year  
(M/S Adam Kilfoyle/Ron Krug) CARRIED.

10. **Election of Directors:** Millie presented the Nominating Committee report and thanked her committee for staying on top of everything. In March the Board ratified Leanne as Marketing & Communications Chair. Today, the committee is pleased to report that Stephanie has

volunteered to take the place of Kim as Norman representative. Thank you to Kim for all the years she's given. David Sawatzky will be moving to post of Vice-President, while Stuart will move to President and Catherine will move to Past President and will now take the baton of Nominating Committee Chair as well.

Catherine called for nominations from the floor three times as per protocol and there were none. Catherine thanked Millie for all her work in this area.

**MOTION 7:** That the slate of officers be accepted as presented  
(M/S Millie Hildebrand/Marilyn Redekop) CARRIED.

11. **Other/New Business:**

IDEA Committee: We are looking for members from community for this committee. If you or someone you know is interested in joining, there is information available on our website and in *eNotes*.

12. **Adjournment:** Catherine thanked everyone for joining the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.

**MOTION 8:** That the meeting be adjourned  
(Sonya Williams) CARRIED.