**Round Table #2**

**Youth Choirs**

**July 30th, 2020**

*[PRECIS]*

Panelists:

Carrie Tennant, *Artistic Director – Vancouver Youth Choir* / Dr. Adam Con, *Acting Associate Dean - UVIC Faculty of Fine Arts /* Jim Sparks, *Adjunct Professor – UBC /* Liana Savard, *Director – Vancouver Orpheus Choir, Youth Choir Portfolio Chair-BCCF*

Facilitator: Brigid Coult, *Project Manager & Administrative Assistant – BC Choral Federation*

Jim Sparks: Two storms happening now: 1) COVID crisis 2) Social justice movement (BLM, choral music and power structures, appropriation etc.) Three categories from the first storm: 1) what we know, 2) what we don’t know, 3) what we’re still muddled about.

Adam Con: Collected thousands of pages of science. Warns of confirmation bias and tendency of searching out research that supports your hopes. Use a jaundiced eye when reading information. Using this time, instead of rehearsing, to have conversations that are intergenerational, regarding social justice, etc. Important while we can’t meet face to face. Keep faith that we will come back to in person rehearsals some day.

Carrie Tennant: Experienced stages of grief, despair & hopelessness and frustration with conflicting science/vagueness of policy. Disparity between sports and arts lead to discovery of how to create a restart plan. Collaborated with Diana Clark to create *“Let’s Sing Safely”* document: a clear set of guidelines about what needs to be considered in order to sing together. Document based on information/science and policies from elsewhere in Canada and around the world. It is before the BC CDC for review and in the hands of VP Deputy Public Health Officer.

Three sections:

1. Broad strokes of how to move towards singing safely in person
2. Specific measures to keep people safe
3. Plan for event of an outbreak

Title of document infers that there is a way to sing safely but we know that there’s no way to sing safely. Document isn’t intended as advocacy for returning to in person singing but instead means to chart a path through. It is a living document that is updated with latest science. Document could further explore how to balance things for those who cannot be included (with health issues)

BC CDC’s third bullet point was very upsetting for some: If you have health conditions, don’t sing

Threat of Covid in BC still very real if up to 40% of transmission is asymptomatic and we have 8 times the number of cases as reported.

BC Ministry of Education’s latest announcement has left music teachers scrambling to find solutions to running music programs in new environment with the limited cohort numbers.

There is an interest in learning which activities are more appropriate for online and which more appropriate for in person. Modular teaching very popular idea. Online eliminates geographical limitations – engage clinicians from around globe, share rehearsals, etc. Outdoor rehearsal ideas: parkades and forests. Online rounds and partner song (ChorAmor resource).

Be kind to yourself and enjoy the journey