**Round Table #3**

**Adult Choirs (under 40 members)**

**August 6th, 2020**

*[precis]*

Panelists:

Morna Edmundson, *Artistic Director – Elektra, EnChor* / Willi Zwozdesky, *Artistic Director – VMC, Executive Director – BCCF /* Nina Horvath, *Executive Director – Vancouver Bach Choirs* / Sarona Mynhardt, *Artistic Director – In Spirito*

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

**Relevant, useful documents:**

* *“Let’s Sing Safely”:* set of guidelines to help choirs restart in-person rehearsals
  + Waiting on vetting from BC CDC
  + Determines processes to return to in-person singing safely
  + Measures to keep people safe to avoid further outbreaks
  + A plan in the event that a case or outbreak should occur
  + Can’t have more than 50, air circ and masks important
  + Rehearsals should be less than 30 mins
* Covid-19 Airborne Transmission Estimator tool
* CU Boulder Study results 5 takeaways: well-fitted masks important, distance, time limit (30 mins max), air flow, hygiene (sanitizing etc.)
* WorkSafe BC has good template for checklist

**Thoughts from the BCCF**

* takes position that there is no safe singing at this moment
* recognizes that PHO has not yet addressed singing
* will instead interpret BC CDC minimal guidelines to a choral setting
* advocates informing our singers of the science so that they, too, can make informed decisions, education is key
* in constant contact with Choral Canada and provincial organizations across country

**What are some of the larger organizations doing?**

VMC has members willing to try some in person

Bach Choir on Zoom for fall, desire for equity around rehearsal access, adult chamber might try outdoors while weather permits

EnChor (60 person aged 55+)

* does not want anyone left out
* will rehearse online via Zoom
* Morna and pianist will be in same room as a “social reward” for members

Elektra (45 person generally younger than EnChor)

* Will be surveyed for willingness to meet in person
* 13 singers (plus pianist/conductor) will meet in person in church and Zoom the event
* Will created balanced cohorts for in person and adhere to all specific guidelines
* Planned recording project for September in a studio that has 10 separate rooms

**Sarona Mynhardt - charting a path**

* Attitude is crucially important
* Flexibility and improvisation important; shift focus from what we can’t do to what we can; modular learning focusing on theory, vocal technique etc.; try spoken chorus and body percussion; plan short season keep it relevant and simple
* Main purpose is to keep our music communities together

**Summary of concerns from members during breakout rooms:**

* General desire to learn and seek resources for Zoom and how it works for choir
* Finding venues for indoor and outdoors singing is challenging
* Funding issues arise from lack of ticket sales
* Screen time demands already high, choir is yet another screen demand