**Round Table #4**

**Adult Choirs (over 40 members)**

**August 13th, 2020**

*[précis]*

Panelists:

Morna Edmundson, *Artistic Director – Elektra, EnChor*; Willi Zwozdesky, *Artistic Director – VMC, Executive Director – BCCF*; Dr. Adam Con, *Acting Associate Dean - UVIC Faculty of Fine Arts*; Sarona Mynhardt, *Artistic Director – In Spirito*

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

**Wisdom and guidance from the BCCF:**

* “Let’s Sing!” – Safety Considerations and Guidelines for In-Person Group Singing in British Columbia
* Document from the NCCEH (Resources from the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health)
* Important to disseminate the information to our singers
* BCCF has been networking nationally on singing and Covid issues
* BCCF invites input on how we can better help our community

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

* VMC planning on a virtual holiday concert
* EnChor Fall season entirely online, director and pianist will be in same room, <2 hrs, new repertoire, no plan to perform, weekly social Zoom meetings
* Elektra 42% voted in favour of in-person rehearsals, will do 3 small, mixed groups, rotating weekly distanced in church, challenging music, no plan to perform
* In Spirito entirely online for rehearsal and social sessions, will create a short-story recipe book, sing-alongs, seasonal theme of “Stars I Shall Find”
* UVIC Chorus online for fall season, planning joint concert with King and Concordia though this is unlikely to happen in person

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

* Leaders are feeling alone and are encouraged to bring their groups into the discussion
* Unity is the most important thing
* Concern for low enrolment
* Concern about membership, venue, expenses

**Sarona Mynhardt – inspiration for moving forward**

* Make Zoom your friend
* Our attitude determines choir’s attitude
* 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

**Adam Con – observing our relationships to science**

* Beware of implicit bias/confirmation bias
* Keep in mind the science is being updated all the time
* How do you guard against transmission through asymptomatic illness
* Larger choirs simply aren’t able to find venues big enough for in-person rehearsing