**Round Table #5**

**Senior Choirs**

**August 20th , 2020**

*[précis]*

Panelists:

Liana Savard, *Director Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir* - Gale Lindenthaler, *Director Kent Street Choristers* - Phyllis Papineau, *Director Peachland Variety Singers* - Nicholas Kelly, *Director Penticton Tune-Agers*

Facilitator: Janette Walker, *Past President and Seniors Portfolio Chair – BC Choral Federation*

**Singing and Covid**

Singing produces tiny droplets of exhaled moisture which can carry viral load that is thought to be high enough to cause infection

Seniors and those with underlying health issues are more at risk but anyone can contract the disease

Recent research into singing and Covid-19 concludes that if you are to sing in person

* you should all mask – and make sure it’s well-fitting (mention the Singers Mask)
* CDC recommends at least 6’ distance all round (8’ is better) – whether inside or outside
* no more than 30 minutes of rehearsal before you leave the room for a complete room air change
* outdoors is best; failing that HEPA filtration or determined ACH rates (Air Change per Hour)
* hygiene – sanitizing, not sharing music, etc

Resources such as the BC CDC statement, the NCCEH guidelines, and the “Let’s Sing” document also condone these points

**What other choirs are doing this fall**
Richmond Chorus: mostly meeting online focusing on specific skills, not repertoire, may do a virtual choir project

Peachland Variety Singers: several key members have moved away, looking for new accompanist, membership hesitant to sign up for Zoom, trying to stay together with phonecalls and picnics

Kent Street Choristers: Started two mail-outs to keep members connected: a weekly newsletter and a song sheet. Will otherwise remain on hiatus until they can meet in person again

Penticton Tune-Agers: did a trial Virtual Choir project and plan to do more in the fall, trying out online rehearsals only for fall

Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir: has been rehearsing via Zoom since March. High participation rate. Will continue online for fall. Gave a template for a typical zoom rehearsal broken down into segments of 10-20 mins for different activities including vocal technique, repertoire, breakout sessions, games, and more

General take-aways from Breakout sessions:

Many smaller concerns, overarching focus is to keep groups together and not give up