

July 15, 2021 — TO ALL BCCF CHOIRS

COVID-19 put our BCCF raffle schedule all awry! Last year's Raffle was scheduled to be drawn at Chorfest, but with everything shut down, we pivoted, and with a great deal of work from participating choirs, we managed to hold it in the fall.

Our Raffle 2021 will also be in the fall, and here is the information you need for your choir to be part of it. It's a tried and tested way for choirs to raise at least \$600 with relatively little effort from your singers. We have been organizing this project every year since 1988 and are happy that it is still so popular with our members. We know that your Board is probably not meeting, so we're giving you extra time to make contact with them (those Zoom meetings are pretty easy!) and get the contract back to us by August 15.

Once again the prizes are COOL CASH - which makes the tickets very easy to sell. In our Raffle 2020, 39 choirs took part. There were 13 prizes, ranging from \$100 to \$3,000. No matter how many choirs participate, the pot of gold stays strictly in proportion to the number of tickets printed and the odds will always be attractive. We will go ahead with the project as long as we have a minimum of 20 choirs.

There are only ten (\$2) tickets in each book and for every 50 books your choir sells, you will receive \$600 to pay for music, instruments, or professional fees. Out of the 80 cents the BCCF keeps from each ticket, we pay all prizes and expenses. There is usually even a little left over for other BCCF projects. It works out well for us all. If you don't think you can sell 500 tickets /50 books, you can contact Brigid Coult, Project Manager, to negotiate a smaller number – it should be a multiple of 10. A reminder: your choir membership needs to be current to allow you to participate in the Raffle.

The choirs which do best at this find just ONE well-organized person to be in charge and they get their singers to promise to sell (or even buy for themselves) just one or two books each. Beware of well-meaning but unrealistic offers to take more - unsold or lost tickets will eat into your share of the proceeds. We plan to have the tickets available to you by the end of September so that you will have about eight weeks until November 22, 2021 for your campaign. The winners will be drawn on November 25.

If your singers do return unsold tickets, consider buying them for your choir with choir funds. This is quite legal and several choirs have actually won prizes! It will cost you nothing in effect because 80 cents from each ticket would have been due to the BCCF anyway and the other \$1.20 will be returned to you as part of your share.

What's new this year? - we are running this through Raffle Nexus, which means that you will very easily be able to sell your raffle tickets online – in fact it may well prove to be much easier than selling hard-copy tickets. For the raffle coordinators, much of the tracking can be done online, there is minimal handling of money, and help always available from BCCF to answer questions. Once we have the Raffle license, you will be asked to define how many tickets to allocate to e-sales and how many to hard-copy. There is some flexibility – as you sell, you may find the e-tickets going faster than the paper ones, or vice versa, and we can re-allocate as needed.

Please consider this fundraising opportunity carefully. We know it can actually be quite enjoyable if you find the right person (or team) to keep careful records and nag graciously!

We'll be watching for your completed contract by August 15, 2021. GOOD LUCK!

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