

## Manitoba Choral Association Inc. Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 – 7:00pm  
Hybrid Meeting: 600 Shaftesbury Blvd./Zoom

### DRAFT Minutes

**Present:**

**In-Person:** Derek Morphy, Stuart Sladden, Jenny Steinke-Magnus (staff), Alexis Chlopecki (staff, recording)

**Zoom:** David Sawatzky (Chair), Scott Armstrong (O. Koshetz Choir), Kathleen Bell, Trish Buri (Seniors Choral Society), Ben Campbell, Jorrel Camuyong, Michelle Chzyk (Konektis), Ruth Denton, Katie Donnelly, Jamie Dyck (Ecco Singers), Henry Engbrecht, Nancy Fast, Elizabeth Gebauer (das Femmes), Jeff Green, Katy Harmer, Sharon Hyndman (Women in Harmony), Crystal Kolt, Ron Krug, Philip Lapatha, Lori Mackedenski, Oscar Pantaleon Jr. (Musica Singers), Donna Platt (Good Neighbours Chorus), Naomi Russell, Robyn Stewart, Tara Cameron-Tilokani (Westman Youth Chorus), Elaine Thompson (Straitclair Theatre), Brittany Mielnichuk (staff).

1. Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm. David welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared a land acknowledgement.

2. Adoption of Agenda (Attachment 1)

**MOTION 1: That the agenda be adopted.**

M/S: Stuart Sladden/Elizabeth Gebauer. CARRIED.

3. Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting (Attachment 2)

**MOTION 2: That the minutes from the 2023 AGM be approved as presented.**

M/S: Naomi Russell/Henry Engbrecht. CARRIED.

4. Board & Staff Reports from 2022-23 Year (Attachments 3a, 3b, 3c)

- Jenny highlighted a few details from the 2022-23 reports.
  - The return of our flagship programs, events, and workshops post-pandemic was exciting and drew a wide variety of individuals including singers, choirs, conductors, choral and vocal jazz specialists, and volunteers. Awards and competitions were also given out that fiscal year.

- Choir 101 was a successful new workshop led by Stuart Sladden. TEMPO, although virtual that year, was well attended. ChoralFest's return in 2022 brought in 133 choirs to participate. MB Sings returned following a two-year hiatus with just over 200 participants. BEYOND, new to MCA, brought about 40 choral leaders together for a two-day professional development workshop with various choral and arts specialists from across the continent.
- Because choirs had returned to singing, library usage greatly increased. Over 7,000 pieces of music were borrowed during the fiscal year.
- Membership numbers for choirs increased from the previous year and even surpassed pre-pandemic numbers; individual membership numbers remained the same with no major influx or decrease.
- We grew in terms of our staff team. With the help of summer students, the project of digitizing the library was completed: over 5000 titles of the music were digitized and made accessible on the website. Brittany Mielnichuk was brought on full time and is now back on part-time to focus on communications and marketing. In August 2023, MCA was able to hire Alexis Chlopecki as a full-time administrative assistant.

***MOTION 3: That reports be accepted as presented.***

M/S: Ron Krug/Elaine Thomson. CARRIED.

#### 5. Auditors' Report and Financial Statements (Attachment 4)

- Jenny presented the auditors' report and financial statements and highlighted the following:
  - Robyn Stewart, who is now MCA's active treasurer, stepped into the role near the end of 2023 and is now officially elected to her position for a two-year term.
  - The auditors, Olafson & Jones, gave MCA a clean audit opinion; they were happy with our accounting records. MCA had a good experience working with them on the audit, and from discussion with them, we have also decided to update some financial policies before next year's audit.
  - "Long-term debt" refers to our CEBA loan (\$40,000), which was paid back in full this year.
  - There were increased staff costs comparative to last year's report due to hiring new staff (Alexis) and increasing hours.
  - Our overall program budget broke even: losses through some programs were recouped with gains from other programs.
  - Overall, MCA has had a strong fiscal year with a small surplus of \$800.

***MOTION 4: That the audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2023, be approved as presented***

M/S: Robyn Stewart/Crystal Kolt. CARRIED.

## 6. Appointment of Auditors for 2023/2024 Fiscal Year

***MOTION 5: That Olafson & Jones be appointed as auditors for the 2023-24 fiscal year.***

M/S: Robyn Stewart/Crystal Kolt. CARRIED.

## 7. Update for 2023-24 – Program Slate & Budget (Attachments 5a & 5b)

- Jenny presented the approved program slate with a budget plan to break even for the current fiscal year. She highlighted the following:
  - MCA is being mindful of not over-offering events, to encourage the community to support choirs' events as well as avoiding overloading staff and volunteers.
  - Our major flagship programs, ChoralFest and MB Sings, were successful and will be reported on at the next AGM.
  - MCA is happy to announce the collaboration with Winnipeg Arts Council to participate in the *Winnipeg 150: City of Song* initiative. This is currently in progress, with MB Sings 2024 being the inaugural event. The next event affiliated with this initiative will be the Intercultural Concert 'Together in Song', which MCA is co-hosting with the Manitoba Chinese Choir.
  - MCA is planning several new events to contribute to the City of Song initiative, including a sing-along event for spring 2024, networking events throughout the year, and a senior high leadership camp in either June or October.
  - Awards and competitions will be launched again in the Spring. The Frances Seaton Choral Composition Competition, however, will remain on hold. FCMM had a multi-year agreement in place with MCA to provide funding for the prize money, but unfortunately, that agreement has run out. This was an opportunity for the MCA board to evaluate the program and to start looking for alternative options for funding expenses (which not only include the prize money, but also expenses for the performing guest choir and musicians, and staff time to cover this). With this in mind, the board has created a sub-committee to explore what the competition could look like, and if the competition still aligns with MCA's values, as the organization has been moving away from the competitive side of our flagships and programs. The board is looking for other ways of honouring Frances Seaton, including composition workshops, or a competition that could possibly be more youth focused. The board will work at making a decision for 2024-25.
  - The next intra-provincial meeting will happen over the next couple months and IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility) Corner will be re-launched in the spring.
  - The tentative program for 2024-25 includes a Regional Youth Choir collaborative concert. MCA wants to continue demonstrating that we are fully committed to supporting choirs across the province. So, in addition to Winnipeg 150 work, MCA is looking forward to working with other regions in Manitoba as well.
  - Small increases can be found throughout the 2023-24 budget, and those are a reflection of costs rising from an operational standpoint.

## 8. Election of Directors

### 8.1. Report of the Nominating Committee

- David and Jenny thanked Stuart for his six years of service on the board, and presented him a card and gift on behalf of MCA.
- Naomi will be stepping into the role of President; David will be moving into the Past-President role.
- MCA is still currently looking for a Vice President. David highlighted that it has been difficult to find someone to fill that role as many of the choral directors that were tapped on the shoulder are still trying to rebuild their programs after the pandemic and feel they cannot commit to MCA at this time. For now, the role will remain vacant.
- The rest of our current board of directors are on the slate to be elected for two-year terms.

### 8.2. Nominations from the floor, if any (to be moved and seconded and have written consent of the nominee if the nominee is absent)

- David called for nominations from the floor. There were no new nominations.

### 8.3. Election of Directors and Officers from the Report of the Nominating Committee and (or) nominations from the floor, by show of hands or by secret ballot, if requested

- There were no new nominations from the Nominating Committee or the floor.

***MOTION 6: That MCA's board of directors be elected as presented.***

M/S: Stuart Sladden/Kathleen Bell. CARRIED.

## 9. Other/New Business

- There was no new business noted.

## 10. Adjournment

***MOTION 7: That the meeting be adjourned.***

M: Katy Harmer. CARRIED.