

Pilgrim Festival Chorus Minutes of Annual Meeting

Presiding: C Melahoures.

As a quorum of members was present, the meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

Secretary's Report:

Reading of the 2005 Annual Meeting minutes was waived by voice vote. The minutes were approved as posted on the PFC website.

Treasurer's Report:

L Fredericks presented the Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$3,744.94, as of 5/15/2006, to end the 2005-6 year. For the concert just performed, we were about \$2,000 short. However, money was generated by the excellent effort by members to sell tickets, and to pay for their dues and music. Other sources were grants from the Plymouth, Whitman and Halifax Local Cultural Councils. A contingent from PFC sang at the Pinehills at Christmas, and several members participated in the 2005 Walk for Music. This extra income helped to fund the magnificent soloists and orchestra for our Brahms' *Requiem* concerts. Although it is good to end "in the black", plans for the 2006-2007 season will require the use of these funds. The report was approved as presented.

Music Director's Report:

B Richter said that in order to look forward we have to look back. He expressed his sincere thanks to the PFC Membership as an organization willing to follow his direction down a strange and new road with new and challenging works. We met - indeed surpassed - this challenge, and continued to build over the 5-7 years of the chorus' history. Five years ago, he could not have imagined that this group could perform a Brahms' *Requiem*. It was both physically and emotionally a high point in his career. He hopes we feel the same as he does. We each play a beautiful instrument: our voice, and he hopes we can use our own skills to help others. But we have to be careful to preserve the high spot we reached with the *Requiem*. We have to be careful with "Pops" music. When patrons hear "Pilgrim Festival Chorus", they expect more than that from us. He asked that we think of this when planning any events.

Bill brought us greetings and congratulations from Steven Karidoyanes. Steven became the new Music Director of the Masterworks Chorale on May 14, in addition to his position as Conductor and Music Director of the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra, and his many other professional duties. He still considers the PFC part of his musical family, and looks forward to working with us again in the late fall. There might be an additional challenge for the PFC in performing with the PPO this year. The management may add a third concert, on Friday night, in addition to the Saturday night and Sunday matinee performances. It will mean quite a marathon of rehearsals and performances. We need to think how this may affect us.

Bill told members he did not attend the board meeting, and therefore could not discuss any ideas for our fall concert until he could present his plans to a Summer Board of Directors meeting. Members will be notified of these plans shortly after that meeting, via our website, emails and/or postal letters.

President's Report:

C Melahoures, as retiring Board President, went over the highlights of the past year. Singing at the Pinehills was a good opportunity for us to raise money. She thanked members for their excellent ticket sales this past season, Dan Miot for his wonderful

publicity on the Brahms' concerts, and Cliff Fredericks for doing and printing the programs and tickets over the past several years. The full text of Connie's report is posted on the "Members page" of the website.

She asked that all members be on the lookout for opportunities to perform in their community, e.g. at Town Meetings and other special municipal occasions. We will do this as part of our community service obligation. But we need members to apply for grants from their Local Arts Councils, and to look for fund-raising opportunities similar to the Pinehills caroling. These extra monies are needed to build the treasury and allow us to present concerts like the Brahms' *Requiem*, as they should be performed, with orchestra and soloists, and the superb musicianship of our director and accompanist.

She thanked all the Board members for their service during her tenure, especially Nancy Morse and Cliff Fredericks, retiring members. She thanked Cliff and Linda Fredericks for providing the space for this meeting, and Cyndy for arranging the great refreshments.

New Business:

1. Board Nominations:

On behalf of the Board, C Melahoures placed the following names into nomination for the Board of Directors: as continuing members, Connie Melahoures, who will serve as Immediate Past President (a non-voting member); Linda Fredericks and Cynthia Dorchester (3 year term). New members nominated were Thomas Nordquist and Bridgette Wargovich (3 year term); Susan Mullaney and Linda Kegel (1 year term). There being no additional names put forward, the nominations were closed. The slate was elected by unanimous vote. The Secretary cast one vote to accept the slate.

2. Awards:

It was voted at the preceding board meeting to acknowledge and reward the highest ticket sellers for the Brahms concert. In First Place was Carol Loring, who will receive her fall season music at no cost. Second Place, Liz Estes, received a PFC sweatshirt, and Third Place, Robert Potter, a PFC hat or T-shirt. The board is extremely grateful for the extra efforts made by all members to sell tickets to our concerts.

Announcements:

1. M Hutchings asked for ushers to staff Kathy McMinn's Music Immersion concerts at Memorial Hall June 8th. A handout was available for information.
2. C Melahoures thanked Cliff and Linda Fredericks for setting up the meeting, and Cyndy Dorchester for organizing the wonderful refreshments.
3. C Dorchester reminded members that the PFC Logo sweatshirts, T-shirts and hats on the table were for sale to support the Chorus.

There being no further business, a motion was made for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. Members continued to socialize with one another and enjoy the refreshments and camaraderie of the evening for a while longer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Meredith J Hutchings, Secretary