

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE WORK PLAN 2015

MISSION

To provide opportunities for the Pioneer District Chapters to enhance the music and performance of each chapter through opportunities for education, coaching and exposure to high quality input and feedback.

VISION AND FOCUS

The vision of the Music and Performance work plan is to provide the support and access to services that each chapter in the district wants.

The focus of the Music and Performance work plan will be on those services and support mechanisms the individual chapter needs, wants and requests. To make sure that focus is established and maintained, the chapters will be surveyed to determine what services and support they believe they require. To the extent those services and support are mutual, efforts will be made to provide those services and support in a mutually beneficial way. To the extent the support and services are individualized to the specific chapter, efforts will be made to assist the chapter in locating, obtaining and implementing those services and support.

SERVICES AND SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Top Gun for Choruses

This has now been offered for 2 years on the east side of the state. While all choruses that are intended to benefit from this coaching opportunity have been invited to these events, the event has not been attended by the most recent International qualifying choruses. It is my intention to review the program with the leadership of the International qualifying choruses, and those that have scored in the top 3 over the last 3 years and determine if this program continues to be, or if it ever was, a viable program for these choruses.

If it is not a viable program for those choruses, I will attempt to work with them to determine what would be a viable program, and attempt to provide that for the participants. If the program is viable, I will work to put together another Top Gun chorus program (and potentially 2 programs) to allow all top choruses a convenient location to attend the program.

Top Gun For Quartets

I have not attended one of these in the past. However, it is my understanding that this program is administered through the QCA organization. The District has provided support (certainly at the financial level) for this event.

To the extent that this program offers an opportunity for local quartets that may not have the resources to bring in top level coaching prior to a contest, I believe the District should continue to support the program (again, at least from a financial aspect).

UPDATE:

It is my understanding that this even has taken place under the auspices of the QCA. There was no request for assistance from the District and so the event appears to have been funded and staffed directly through the work of the QCA.

Other Coaching Opportunities

- Visiting/Traveling Coaches

Our efforts over the past several years have been focused on "Top" style programs. While the result may have been different (for example - as noted above the International Representative choruses have not attended Top Gun for Choruses) the focus has, in effect, left other choruses that could benefit from this coaching (see for example the improvement made by the Flint chorus after attending the program last fall) out in the cold, or feeling like second class citizens for being asked after others declined to attend.

I would like to survey the district's not quite Top choruses, and see what they believe we might be able to provide to them in terms of support and services. In particular, I would like to see if we could look into an opportunity (through the use of Harmony Foundation Grants and other funding possibilities) of bringing in top judges and coaches from the Society who would spend a few days to a week traveling the District and attending chapter meetings and offering coaching to those choruses for the rehearsal.

- Coaching Development

I would also like to determine if there is interest among our district "coaches" and other interested and qualified members to be a part of a one to two day program to learn about coaching techniques and specific issues judges hear and score in a contest from top Society coaches and judges. While we have a number of district members who make themselves available as coaches, we do not offer any assistance to those members, nor do we encourage others to learn these techniques. This too, might be something we could fund through a Harmony Foundation grant.

- **Annual Show Review and Assistance**

There has been a Standing Ovation program in the past, but it has not been advertized to its greatest potential. I am not aware that anyone (other than Al Fisk) has been trained recently in the program. This is a very cost efficient way for each Chapter to have someone with appropriate knowledge, review the Chapter show from all aspects, from the program to the house facilities, to the stage to the show performance, script and everything in-between.

This program, which is no cost to the district beyond the initial training, should be revived and advertized to the Chapters as a means by which the Chapter can have a review of the process of the annual show and provide constructive feedback.

UPDATE:

I have had email conversations with Al Fisk, Dan Bezaire and Roger Lewis, all of whom indicated that are/have been Standing Ovation reviewers in the past and currently. I have received some information from these individuals as well regarding the training for the program. I will continue those discussions and determine if there is a need for further training for new people to act as reviewers. I will also begin the re-advertise the program to the chapters for use in their shows/performance.

CONCLUSION

I am still in the learning phase of this job. I am open to feedback and suggestions for other issues we can address as well as in how these potential opportunities may best be implements. Feel free to contact me with any suggestions, additions, enhancements or constructive comments regarding these opportunities.

Dave Montera
Pioneer District Music & Performance V.P.