

Music Summit Responses – November 2017

Rob Pettigrew Email – November 19, 2017

Hi guys,

Thanks so much for organizing and hosting yesterday's Music Team Summit, it was great to hear the ideas that were presented, and to get to chat with the folks who attended.

You asked for feedback, and Paul & I talked a bit about this last night, but I wanted to put it in writing so Jamie could hear it too (plus, I write better than I talk...). This wound up being longer than I intended, but it covers the important bits of how great I think yesterday was, as well as what we might try next time.

The greatest thing about yesterday...was that it HAPPENED. That is a sincere feeling and no "faint praise", truly: merely getting an event like this off the ground has proven to be difficult for years -- and this event brought folks from all over the state. That's huge. So, many many kudos to Jamie for organizing, promoting, and herding all the cats into Okemos.

I enjoyed the resonance matching exercise that William went over, and later, the rehearsal techniques that Jamie took us through. And Paul always has good info for us, too. The 5 minutes that Caleb spent telling us about low breathing and the 1% improvement was a highlight of the day.

It was an enormous success that you managed to have 30 plus motivated barbershoppers drive in from all over the state to talk about future planning and how to make our chapters more successful. The missed opportunity, however, was that we had 30 motivated barbershoppers drive in from all over the state and they spent almost the entire day sitting and listening, rather than talking with each other. As a summit, my hope for the day was to hear from the people in the room, to exchange ideas with them, and to learn from their experience.

So I want to make an offer for the next time.

We would benefit from more collaborative, active learning opportunities at an event like this. An enormous amount of knowledge and wisdom resides in those 30 people -- they have tried things that work and that haven't worked, they have questions, they have challenges. Every person in that room has knowledge and experience that can benefit the others around the room.

I'd like to host a session at the next Music Leadership Summit that encourages sharing of our experiences. It would use the Lightning Talk format, where leaders of each chapter would have 8 minutes (not a single second more) to present 2 things their chapter does which they think other chapters could learn from or would be interested in, plus 1 challenge they face that they'd like help with (or 1 question they have for the other chapters). We wouldn't address the question/challenge at that point, but we'd make a note of it for later. The Lightning Talk format allows us to hear a whole slew of cool ideas in just 60 minutes or so, and the drop-dead time limit keeps the energy high and the momentum moving.

A followup idea then might be to put the questions & challenges on the wall and have people put a checkmark next to any they'd also like to discuss (perhaps they have some suggestions, or also suffer from the same

challenge and would like to brainstorm). We could identify the 3 topics with the most interest, and then hold a 30-minute breakout session where you could gather at a table with others interested in that topic to have a discussion.

So that's my offer to help encourage inter-chapter cooperation in building our District. In the long run, I expect that active involvement in solving problems and developing goals together will lead to solutions and goals that have better buy-in across the District, and create more connections amongst our chapters.

There's a lot that goes on at Leadership Academy -- I'm thinking especially of officers who are attending half- or full-day training -- so my inclination is that this is something that would work better at a Summit like we had yesterday, where everybody is available to work with everybody else for the full day. But I'm open to doing something at LA if it's better to get it going sooner rather than later.

Rob

Michael Hartrick – Email November 18, 2017

Jamie and Paul,

Excellent workshop today. This was the most useful event of this type that I've ever attended in the district. Although we only had a short time to touch on most subjects, you made good use of it and provided useful information that will be of immediate help. I've already told the rest of the Rochester music team that I can't wait to talk to them about your goals and I've also provided a summary to our board.

Here are some things that I thought were really useful:

- 1) Setting out clear goals and metrics for where you want to see Pioneer District head, including the concept of core competencies.
- 2) Narrowing down music / singing into a few key techniques that lower level choruses can focus on for immediate improvement, including both what you discussed and Caleb's discussion. To some extent Rochester has already been working on these techniques, but I came away with a renewed commitment to these practices. I'm sure it was also a useful reminder for higher level choruses also.
- 3) I enjoyed the discussion of resonance matching - a higher level technique and probably a step or two beyond where the Guardians currently are, but I'll be taking this on with our music team (Moonshine quartet). I'll need to call William and see if he can come visit with us sometime soon.
- 4) Helpful reminders on membership, meetings, and other things that aren't necessarily completely on the music team. I'm hoping Leadership Academy has more for other chapter leaders.

I'm really looking forward to Leadership Academy based on this event.

In Harmony,

Mike Hartrick
Associate Director, Rochester Guardians of Harmony

Diane Clark – email November 24, 2017
Hi, Jamie!

I just want to thank you for hosting the district Music Team Summit last week. My three guys and I enjoyed it immensely. They were delighted to hear that our chorus is doing a lot of the things you and Paul were advocating. They said, "We are on the right track, aren't we?" :-)

I look forward to receiving the notes/materials that you plan to share. I am sure they will be helpful.

Thanks again for an excellent day.

In harmony,
Diane

Charlie Martin – Email – Nov 22
Hi Jamie

First I would like to say that this directors and music committee seminar was well worth the time and money spent. I liked that you and Paul and William and Aaron all were able to contribute to the seminar. There was a lot of information and you are right there's just not enough time to cover all of what could be done. It felt to me in some ways like a mini harmony U. And that's a good thing.

Suggestions for the next get together would be to distribute the lesson plan and or agenda. What Paul was showing up on the screen is what I would use to make my own comments and notes as we go along. So if you could have a handout or send a PDF ahead of time so we can print it out, I think that would be helpful.

Speaking for myself I would like to see more than one of these a year. I think that twice a year would be the minimum and four times a year would be optimal. I think it is beneficial to all of us but it would benefit the lesser experienced people in the group especially.

I like the idea of having goals in general for our entire district that would be posted and send out to all of the chapters. Kind of a challenge. If we can change attitudes at the chapter level then it benefits the entire district. Also, you need to update the list of all those in the district who can travel to and help chapters in need in the various areas of expertise. Send that list out to all the chapters.

You talked about spreading the wealth and the idea of an exchange program for directors came to mind. This might be a little bit more difficult because I know the directors have a heavy schedule. But it was an idea and I thought I would throw it up against the wall and see if it would stick.

I also have a question. Is it possible for the district to help this program along financially.? There are several chapters who would have a hard time paying for the help.

Another question. What is the district doing in reference to the youth outreach program? This is an essential part of our recruiting program. And all of our chapters could use an infusion of more singers. Going into the high schools and maybe even college campuses with a professionally produced program that benefits them and us is what Sherry Lewis was working on in Nashville. Haven't heard much about it lately. We have some heavy hitter teachers who are already in high school music programs in Pioneer District.

OK well that should be enough for now. Thanks again.

Charlie