

## Crown Choir Rehearsal Notes for Wednesday 4/22/23

Hello great choir, hope you've stayed safe out there in this week's cold and wind!

As our season proceeds with another performance in the offing it is helpful to summarize our rehearsal last Wednesday for those of you who could not make it and for everyone to review. In addition we now have the departure time and more details for our motor-coach to St. Ignatius. This email also reviews the annual Crown Choir fund raising information we presented at our last rehearsal.

Last Wednesday Craig asked each of us to **comment on our Samaritan House performance** and all of us were most happy with yet another positive concert and the funds we raised for the veteran housing initiative has impressed everyone.

Craig then ran the Crown through a reading of our new piece **Fresh and Fearless**. Craig has decided we do *not* have the rehearsal time to be able to include this at St Ignatius. We then spent time on portions of **Credo** which is now sounding most lovely. We agreed to **memorize** two of our songs: **Turn The World Around** and our signature song **One Voice**. Finally Headwaters ran through **Ohtul** and **Lullaby**, both also coming along nicely.

Regarding our upcoming **St. Ignatius performance on Sunday March 5th we have a paid-for MotorCoach!!** An anonymous donor has generously offered to fund the cost of the bus. Here are important details now updated since Wednesday:

- The bus capacity is 47 so we will have limited extra space for friends and family on a first-come / first-serve basis: **tell us ASAP if you want to add a friend or family member** (you can **reply** to this email, **Contact Us** on our website <http://www.crownchoir.org> or email **CrownOfTheContinentChoir@Yahoo.com**)
- The bus will leave the Flathead High School parking lot (the same south lot where we park for rehearsal) at **10:30 AM sharp** in time to arrive at St. Ignatius no later than 12:50. Sorry but we cannot wait for any late comers. While our motor coach will have a bathroom you may want to arrive early enough, maybe shortly after 10:00, to use the facilities in the high school (we will have a door open.) The secretary at the Mission assures us they will have their bathrooms accessible when we arrive no later than 12:50. Call time will be 1:00 in the spectacular Mission.
- You will need to bring your own sack lunch and a beverage to eat en route on the bus.
- We will *pass the hat* to tip our driver. Rocky Mountain Transportation suggests a gratuity of \$180. In the past we've been happy to exceed that amount.

If you would like to help advertise our upcoming performance you can print a copy of our poster (see thumbnail below) which we have attached to this email. We have also added the PDF to our website.

**On the business front** it is fund raising time in our singing season and we ran through the Crown's annual strategies which are summarized thus:

- Annual costs to run our choir is ~ \$10K. This is always a bit of surprise to many of us on the board but in the grand scheme this is a great bargain considering what we do!

- As our basic revenue, dues of \$100 x ~35 members = ~\$3.5K, we have a shortfall of ~\$6.5K.
- Choir members can help as follows:
  - **Your biggest contribution is being part of the choir.** This alone is all we could ask for. Your voice and your fellowship are priceless. ONLY if you want to do more and ONLY if you are comfortable and able to do so, here are some options:
  - **Sponsorships** For instance, Randy feels comfortable asking organizations like the Whitefish Credit Union (where much of Dawn and Randy's hard earned \$'s reside) to help our choir help our community. Our sponsorship flyer is motivating to show how the Crown supports causes like new housing for our veterans, Ukrainian relief, and the restoration of the murals at our historic St. Ignatius Mission. To avoid redundancy the list below\* includes organizations that choir members have asked or intend to ask for 2023 sponsorships. If you contact a business or plan on contacting a business please send the board an email so we can add it to our list\* (you can **reply** to this email, **Contact Us** on our website <http://www.crownchoir.org> or email **CrownOfTheContinentChoir@Yahoo.com**) We have some more copies of our flyer which you can pick up at next rehearsal. You can also print your own (in color preferably if you can): the pdf is attached to this email and also available on our website. Note that sponsorships are tax deductible as the Crown is a recognized 501c3 non-profit (our EIN number is given on the bottom of the flyer.)
  - **Silent Auction / Raffle Donations** For instance, Randy doesn't mind tapping Nelson's Hardware and Western Building Center because each gets a bunch of his business. Years ago when he asked Nelson's if they would support our choir the Nelson family said: *Absolutely! It is truly our privilege and an honor and frankly an obligation to provide this community service to the community that supports us!* Nelson's and WBC have donated tools (e.g.: drills) in the past which are always hot items in our silent auction. Again it is handy to have our sponsorship flyer in hand to show the community service provided by The Crown. As with sponsorships we try to avoid soliciting businesses for donations more than once. See current list\* below. If you want more ideas a partial list of businesses that choir members have asked in previous years is also given below.\*\* We have a donation form and will have more copies available at our next rehearsal. You can also print your own (in color preferably if you can): the pdf is attached to this email and also available on our website. Note that donations are tax deductible as the Crown is a recognized 501c3 non-profit (our EIN number is given on the bottom of the donation form.) Again If you contact a business or plan to do so please send the board an email so we can add it to our list\*.
  - The **One Voice Fund** is new this year. If you want to do more without soliciting sponsorships and without soliciting silent auction donations and you are able, any cash donation you care to make is always welcome. The board has already donated \$1,000 to get this fund going. Donations written out to the Crown of the Continent Choir can be given to our treasurer Mark Sullivan during any rehearsal or mailed to Mark at 92 E. Nicklaus Ave. Kalispell MT 59901

Annually the board also goes after **foundation funding**, for instance the Whitefish Community Foundation. When writing grants the more The Crown can show that we internally support our cause, the greater the likelihood our grant applications will succeed. This year, in addition to our membership dues, we can cite our **One Voice Fund**.

Again please email the board if you are planning on approaching a business not on the first list below\* so we can add it.

As always don't hesitate to send the board or Craig any questions or concerns. If you **reply** to this email or **Contact Us** on our website we will respond ASAP.

-- Crown Board



\* As of today 2/24/23 here are the businesses in the Flathead Valley that choir members have reported having approached or have reported they intend to approach for 2023 sponsorships or donations:

- Whitefish Credit Union
- Whitefish Mountain Resort
- Whitefish Lake Restaurant
- Glacier Bank
- Freedom Bank
- Flathead Electric
- Nelson's Hardware
- Western Building Center
- Budget Blinds
- American Bank
- Don K
- Snappy's Sport Senter / BJ Lupton
- Gil's furniture

This list will be updated on our website whenever choir members tell the board about new businesses they have approached or intend to approach:

<http://crownchoir.org/solicited-businesses-2023/>

\*\* If you are interested in asking Flathead businesses to help us help our community, the following list of some of the businesses choir members have asked in the past might be helpful. To date **none of these** have been identified by choir members for 2023 donation requests (so all are currently 'open season' for solicitation...)

- Sweet Peaks Ice Cream
- Montana Coffee Traders
- Wild Coffee
- North Valley Music School
- Glacier UU Fellowship
- Whitefish Liquor Store
- Super 1 Foods
- RBM Lumber
- D&S Logworks
- Withey's Health Foods
- M&C Tire
- Kalispell Toyota
- Stoltz Lumber
- Markus Foods
- Mountain Valley Foods