

Greetings Dear Cantata Singers Chorus!

I write to you from the mountains of beautiful British Columbia, where I'm finding refuge for a few weeks with my family. I hope this letter (and the attached information) finds you well.

35th Anniversary Season

We are heading into an exciting season of music and celebration! The 2017-18 season marks the 35th anniversary year of our marvelous leader David Hoose serving as music director for Cantata Singers; and, as always, David has created an impeccable repertoire of music for us to perform. After the opening concert on Friday, November 3, 2017, there will be a post-concert soirée honoring David. There will be more information in the coming months, but we encourage you now to plan on attending that event.

Elise Krob and I are looking forward to serving another season as chorus President and Vice-President. We've had one season to figure out what our roles are meant to be, and have come up with some ideas for how we can serve the chorus better in this capacity in the upcoming season.

Social Events

We recognize it is difficult to get to know one another during rehearsal cycles, as our rehearsal time is limited and there is a great amount of work to accomplish each Wednesday night. We hope to provide the chorus with opportunities to develop a camaraderie and a sense of belonging, which we feel would translate into an ownership of the work we are meant to accomplish. On that note, we will be organizing a beginning-of-season Bach-B-Q, hopefully shortly after the fall auditions so we can meet and greet the newest members in an informal setting. After the December chamber concert in Needham, Jennifer Hughes has graciously offered to host a Holiday party. And, to round out the season, we will plan an event after the spring concert - perhaps a listening party. Stay tuned for dates and availability polls.

Membership Guidelines Revisions

At the chorus council meeting this past April we identified some wording in the membership guidelines that needed to be revised. Please closely review the "*Membership Responsibilities*" section in the attached document with the new revisions.

Recruit for New Chorus Members

New member auditions are coming up in early September, and we encourage you to invite your singer friends and colleagues to audition. David mentioned at the chorus council that having chorus members refer qualified singers to audition is truly the best way to recruit new members.

Incentives for Driving Ticket Sales

We'd like to start offering incentives to encourage chorus members to contribute to ticket sales. The more friends/family/colleagues we drive to the concerts, the better audience we will have, and the more our beautiful programs of music will be heard. We have some ideas that we've

brainstormed with Jennifer, and we will be formulating a list and will keep you updated on incentives with each concert cycle. Please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions!

Ongoing Communication with Chorus

As a presidency, we hope to have more ongoing communication with the chorus this season, by reporting highlights from each board meeting and keeping you abreast of our organizational priorities and goals (for example: including attendance updates in the Notes as a way to increase awareness and accountability within the chorus).

Gratitude for Last Season

It was a wonderful 2016-17 season for Cantata Singers! I want to thank the following individuals for their committed service to this organization:

Jenn Webb and Lauren Cecchini as chorus librarians; Diane Sokal and Elaine Bresnick as snack coordinators; Charles Turner, Dwight Porter and Sam Lederer as stage managers; Nancy Kurtz as chorus Notes editor; Lisa Lynch, Lynn Torgove and Ian Pomerantz as diction coaches; Elise Krob as chorus Vice-President; Eliko Akahori as rehearsal pianist; Amy Lieberman as assistant conductor; Allison Voth as the Chamber Series director (what incredibly poignant programs she created this season!); and our incredible staff - Jennifer Ritvo Hughes (Executive Director), Emily Kirk Weddle (Development and Marketing Manager), Michelle Rush (Education and Production Manager), and Bridget Dennis (Operations Manager). At the chorus council, Jennifer shared some highlights about the staff's background, and I think it would be beneficial for the entire chorus to see how accomplished, driven and qualified the staff is. I hope you will take the time to read the attached document of their bios.

I echo David's heartfelt thanks to Allie Whitfield, who served as chorus personnel manager this season with grace. Lisa Lynch will be a wonderful new personnel manager - welcome to this role, Lisa! Please do your part to make her massive organizational job easier by responding to the online availability form as soon as possible (deadline is August 1st).

Lastly, but certainly not least, I'd like to thank our music leader, David, for taking us through the season with committed passion and a work ethic that is unparalleled. We are grateful for your leadership!

Here's to a remarkable season ahead of us!

All the best,

Felicity Salmon
Chorus President

PS. I can't help but mention the roster of new babies we added this season!
Jenn Webb's daughter, Ada

Felicity Salmon's son, Ari

Elika Akahori's daughter, Umi

Lisa Lynch & Jason Sabol's daughter, Clara

and the impending arrival of Jennifer Hughes' new daughter!

Welcome to the extended Cantata Singers family!

