



## Section Leaders' Corner

I am loving all of the enthusiasm and anticipation of our new concert season! I remember being a new member and not really knowing anything other than I was going to sing! Yes, I got the information packet and I read it, but don't think I paid much attention to the details. After being a member for three years, I have learned a few things that might be helpful to both past and new singers.

- 1) Be a little early to rehearsal so you can check the seating chart and get yourself situated in your seat. If you are going to be late or you are going to be absent, please let your section leader know. (Sopranos - Marlene Stubler 713-569-1556; Altos - Gale Drummond. 936-672-4579; Tenors and Basses - John Charlesworth 936-524-4304)
- 2) Use only a pencil to mark your music. Highlighters and ink pens are a "no-no". This is especially important this year because we will be borrowing most of our music, which means we must return it to its rightful owner when the designated concert has concluded. More information on that process will be coming to you from your section leaders.
- 3) No perfume, no cologne, none of that smelly good lotion. It is great to take a bath/shower, and be clean, but we all need to respect those singers who have allergies.
- 4) Wear your name tags, introduce yourself and get to know your fellow singers especially those in your section. We are a great family, and getting to know each other makes us stronger!

—Gail Drummond, Alto Section Leader

## *That's Amore!*

*Songs of Love and Celebration*

### **Dress Rehearsal**

Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### **Concert**

Date: Thursday, September 27, 2018

Time: Dinner 5:30—Concert 7:00

### **Attire**

Men – Tuxes

Women – Choir dresses – No Jewelry this time.

**Remember NO cologne or perfume.**

### **Concert Night Timeline**

5:30 p.m. Make sure to purchase a ticket for the AMAZING DINNER!

6:00 p.m. Men Warm-up in the Sanctuary (we will run through our two Men's pieces with SHSU Men)

6:15 p.m. Women Warm-up in the Sanctuary with Men

6:30 p.m. Last minute adjustments

6:55 p.m. In Places for Concert

Tell everyone you know about the Montgomery County Choral Society!

If our first rehearsal is any indication of how good the concert is going to be, please start selling tickets and spreading the word.

Interested in singing a solo/duet number on the Dinner portion of the Dinner Showtime? Look for an email about this awesome opportunity! We would love to feature you singing a song about Love and/or Celebration. More details coming soon!

### *...About the M CCS Auxiliary*

The Montgomery County Choral Society was formed in 1972 to bring “the great music of the world” to the Conroe community. Since then, the singers, Artistic Directors, Associate Directors and Accompanists, have been doing just that. Along with their seasonal performances, the talented members of M CCS practice once a week during the performance season. But that’s not all...sometimes they are asked to perform at additional events, which might occasion extra rehearsals, all for the love of singing. In other words, these generous men and women all volunteer their time for the benefit of those who enjoy listening to fantastic music.

This is where the M CCS Auxiliary comes in. Along with rehearsals and performances, the singers were asked to hand out programs, take in tickets and ticket money, provide goodies for yearly tryouts and serve and clean up for their annual Dinner/Showtime Concert. It was a lot of additional work for these volunteer singers. So, in 2005, Marie Underdown was approached by long time M CCS singer, Wayne Hickman, about the possibility of forming a group of people who appreciated all the wonderful music that the M CCS singers provided to the community and were willing to alleviate some of the non-musical duties. Thus, the M CCS Auxiliary was formed.

Auxiliary members came from everywhere. Since performances were held (and are still being held) at First Methodist Conroe, church members were recruited. M CCS singers asked their friends and family members to help out. Folks who were faithful concert attendees were asked to participate. The first meeting of this newly-formed support group was held at FMC with Marie being elected its president. Founding members included Diana Case, Marjorie Laird, Donis Miller, Donna Kopecky, Ellen Post, Jane Martin, Erv Funk, Millie Scott, Beverley Poltorak, Ray Poltorak, Ed Moge, George Bashen, Ida DeRan, John Ricci, Mary Nell Bryant and Dave Underdown. During the years, some members have moved (some to other states, some to heaven) and others have been added, but the enthusiasm continues. In addition, Elva Wilson (in 2007) and Vera Wells (presently) have rounded up some Exxon/Mobile Community Partner retirees who add more man (and woman) power to Auxiliary workers.

As for the M CCS Auxiliary presidency, Marie is still going strong with “very serious meetings” held at her home before each concert. To quote her, “This is the easiest organization that I have ever had the pleasure to lead. As long as I make my famous Chocolate Pecan Candies, everyone is happy!” If you know anyone who would be interested in joining, then have them volunteer by email at [mccsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:mccsmembership@gmail.com). We would love to have you!

### *What Is a Sound Byte?...*



The dictionary defines a sound byte as a "short clip of speech or music extracted from a longer piece of audio, often used to promote the full-length piece." Well, in the context of M CCS, a Sound Byte is actually two ensembles of singers that help promote the larger M CCS! Sound Bytes go out in the community and perform for luncheon meetings like the Lions Club and other organizations! They also are available to sing for just about any group that is looking for some wonderful entertainment! Most programs are about 30 minutes long. So now that you know what the Sound Bytes are, you might be wondering who they are. Ensemble 1 consists of Tommi Hamilton, Debbie Templet, Marlene Stubler and Gail Drummond! Ensemble 2 is Annette Evans, Deborah Baker, John Charlesworth and John Thees. Both ensembles offer amazing voices and songs! So now you know what the Sound Bytes are and you can recommend them to any group you may be a member of that is looking for some entertainment!

## Together We Can Do This!!...

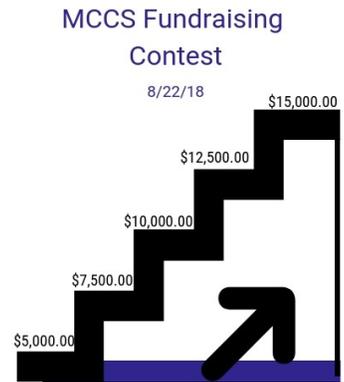
Let's work together to make this concert season spectacular and begin planting seeds of music wherever we go. By September 15<sup>th</sup>, the week before the Dinner/Showtime Concert, let's see if we can raise \$15,000! This money will go toward our annual budget of \$42,500. Since we are a non-profit, all monies go toward paying professional instrumentalists for our concerts, buying music, building our scholarship fund as well as administrative costs.

As mentioned at rehearsal, if every member sold 4 season tickets, we would have raised all \$15,000!!! Now each of you know 4 people you want to invite to our concerts. Plus that puts 320 people in our audience for each concert! That's a win, win!! When you add patron and donor donations and ad sales for our concert playbill, that adds up to a super successful concert season.

Here is a recap of the point system we are using for the contest. (Keep in mind that registration is closed for this concert season so new member points can no longer be accumulated.)

- Every season ticket sold - 1 point
- Chorale level donor/patron - 3 points
- Ensemble level donor/patron or higher - 5 points
- Every ad sold - 2 points
- Full page ad sold - 4 points
- Bring a new member - 2 points

Winners must have a minimum of 5 points to be eligible for any prize.



Help us color in the staircase with blue to signify achieving our goals. As of 8/20, \$4,000 has been raised.

### Point standings as of the beginning of rehearsal on 8/20.

• Marty Lopez	9 pts	• Trish Kerr	3 pts
• Rene Jackson	8 pts	• Jerry McBain	3 pts
• Dottie Anson	8 pts	• Ann Marie Ricci	3 pts
• Tommi Hamilton	8 pts	• Eva Rains	3 pts
• Caryn Hermes	7 pts	• Pat Faubion	2 pts
• Gale Drummond	4 pts	• Peggy Jamerson	2 pts
• Debbie Templet	4 pts	• Joe Brame	2 pts
• Marlene Stubler	4 pts	• John Thees	2 pts
• Julie Stone-Cortez	4 pts	• Charline Wilkins	2 pts
• Deborah Baker	4 pts	• Sue Koller	1 pt
• Marilyn Sponheimer	4 pts	• Jan Lephart	1 pt
• Kelly Gomez	3 pts	• John McClendon	1 pt
• Doris Hickman	3 pts	• Betty Rives	1 pt
• Paul Downing	3 pts	• Elizabeth Slauter	1 pt



## Supporting the Arts Community ...

The Greater Conroe Arts Alliance is a collaborative nonprofit organization in our area that encourages the arts throughout the Greater Conroe Area. Below is a list of some of the opportunities to support the other arts organizations in our community.

- September 8, 5-8pm: **Conroe Art League** hosts its Monthly Artist Reception.
- September 8, 7:30pm: **Conroe Symphony** presents "Opening Night with David Kim, Violinist." Conroe High School; 3200 W. Davis.
- September 7-23: **Crighton Theater** presents "The Savannah Sipping Society. 234 N. Main.
- August 31-September 16: **Live at the Owen Theater** presents "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." 225 Metcalf Street.
- September 29, 8:00pm: **Crighton Theater** hosts country music singer, John Anderson. 234 N. Main.

The Greater Conroe Arts Alliance includes the following member organizations: Christian Youth Theatre, Conroe Art League, Conroe Symphony Orchestra, Crighton Theatre Foundation, Friends of the Flag, Heritage Museum of Montgomery County, Jazz Connection, **Montgomery County Choral Society**, Montgomery County Literary Arts Council, Montgomery County Performing Arts Society, The Players Theatre Company, Stage Right, and Young Texas Artists Competition.

Please check out their websites for additional events and information. Links to each of the member organizations can be found at [artsinconroe.org](http://artsinconroe.org).