

NAPERVILLE CHORUS BOARD MEETING MINUTES: August 4, 2025

ATTENDEES: Signe Gleason (Secretary), Jesse Hart (Director at Large), Nancy Sigel (Membership), Sarah Sippy (ADA Compliance), Richard Sohn (Director at Large) Janan Szurek (President). Kevin Kelly (Interim Director)

ABSENT: Cristin Adam (Music Chair), Keith Anderson (Treasurer), Chuck Jonah (Program Production), Margo Jonah (Grants), Cathy Kaduk (Financial Secretary), Gail Nelson (VP), Pamela Whittles (Director at Large), John Zelman (Operations), Elisabeth Case (Past-President), Andy Galvan (Friends of the Chorus), Vicky Lynch (PR/Publicity)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM

MINUTES: The 7.7.25 minutes were approved.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: None given.

TOPIC: Notes	Follow-Up Needed
<p><u>Questions from Kevin</u> (Kevin will attend this part of the meeting) For budgetary reasons, would you prefer I avoid any choruses that involve soloists? Keeping within a reasonable budget given the need for a bigger orchestra, consider auditioning people for potential soloists from the chorus.</p> <p>Would it be all right, and even good, to include a few orchestra-only pieces on the program? I ask for two reasons: One is that filling a whole program with chorus only will be a lot of challenging music to learn. Second is that, since we'll need to have an orchestra there anyway—probably pretty decent size, to do justice to the wide variety of pieces—it would give the chorus a break now and then, and I noticed that each of your previous opera programs included some orchestra-only pieces. Board agrees that some orchestra-only pieces are sensible for the reasons Kevin noted - it worked well in the past.</p> <p>Orchestra will be close to 40 people, similar as last spring.</p> <p>And what is the usual music budget per singer for these concerts? I assume the singers all buy their own music. We would most likely ask them to buy John Rutter's book of opera choruses (about \$30), since many singers already have that from previous programs. That's a hefty outlay for those who don't have it (but a good investment), plus copies of all the non-opera choruses. Other pieces would be \$1-4 each. Board agrees that purchasing \$30 Rutter's book and several other pieces is reasonable.</p>	
<p><u>Budget from last year– (Dec concert) Kevin has communicated with Keith</u> \$75 – Instrumental scores</p>	

<p>Players for piece based on Pete Ellman invoice from last year - \$1250 Harpist - \$850 Based on Elman’s invoice contract fee - \$300 Stage technician - \$250 Organ (Jon Warfel does not have an organ). Need stops and pedal boards. Jon, Kevin and John are looking into it. Need it for the rehearsal – would be a 4 day rehearsal.</p> <p><u>April 2026 concert</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need big orchestra – close to 40 pieces - Cut down on cost by using soloists from Chorus and/or NCC students and/or consider music that doesn’t involve soloists - Music scores will be no more than \$50 	
<p><u>Communication with Pete Ellman</u> Availability for rehearsal and concert (Keith) Note from Keith: Regarding Pete Ellman, I tried via email, waited a few days, and tried via phone. No response. However, since I talked with Kevin and he had at least one communication with Pete about the concert, I went ahead with the NCC ticketing contract.</p> <p>Song Selection (Kevin) Talked to Pete once. Songs have been chosen and given to Cristin.</p>	
<p><u>Insurance Update</u> (Elisabeth) - Not Discussed Email from Maribel Espinoza of Assured Partners: The package renewal is on 9/10/2025 The Cyber and Crime renew on 10/5/2025</p>	
<p><u>External Contact List:</u> Looks fantastic! Thank you to everyone who has added information.</p>	
<p><u>Sharing of Cell Phone Numbers:</u> Sheet was sent around.</p>	
<p><u>Compensation for UMC (Use of Space)</u> (Nancy) We have given them \$1400 per session (\$100 per night). We have asked for more use of the church than previously anticipated (use of extra rooms, time, etc.)</p> <p>Suggestion: Pay them \$1500 at the beginning of the season, and then a “thank you” donation at end of season for other spaces that we used over the season. (ie. Board meeting room, sectionals - \$50 per extra space)</p>	<p>Make decision at next meeting</p>
<p><u>Assistant Director Employment Agreement:</u></p>	
<p><u>Registration Update:</u> (Nancy) Sent 134 invitations to register As of 8/4/25: 50 have registered, including board members</p>	<p>Nancy will send a reminder email on August 12th with</p>

19 - soprano 15 - alto 9 - tenor 6 - bass	request to a response by date that Cristin says she needs for music order.
Search Committee Update: (Rich) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are four candidates. • Had first round interview with three candidates, all were good. • August 14th, the committee will meet to debrief and decide if they need to ask follow-up questions and discuss if other information is needed from Kevin. • They were impressed that we were able to do Brahm's Requiem. • Will probably want to bring in all three as guest conductors starting September 28th rehearsal. 	
2026 Salzburg Choral Festival: Received Email Music Celebrations International, Dr. Edith Copley, the Austrian National Tourist Office, and the Salzburg Tourist Board, is pleased to extend an official and exclusive invitation to perform in the twelfth-annual Salzburg Choral Festival, <i>Jubilate Mozart!</i>, June 25 – 28, 2026 , to be held in Salzburg's beautiful and historic Kollegienkirche (University Church). The festival chorus will be under the direction of Dr. Edith Copley , Professor Emeritus of Choral Studies at Northern Arizona University, and Professor János Czifra , Emeritus Music Director at Salzburg's Cathedral. Your choir will join with other select choruses in this spectacular festival culminating in a performance of Mozart's Coronation Mass, K. 317 , with accompaniment by the Orchester der Salzburger Dommusik and Austrian soloists under the direction of Herr Czifra, and selected music to be directed by Dr. Edith Copley. Additions to your tour can include incredible musically historic cities such as Vienna, Prague, Munich, and more. In one of the more historic and musically rich parts of the world, your choir can experience the beauty of Austria and the surrounding counties before or after the festival!	Janan will get more detailed information. Cost? Housing? - Sent email on 8/18 Put on September Agenda
OTHER: Board Members can add things here that need to be discussed.	
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: 2026-2027 Season – 50 th Year Anniversary	

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM

NEXT MEETING: September 8, 2025 at 6:15 PM – UMC, Room 305
[LINK to Future Meeting Dates](#)

Minutes Recorded by Signe Gleason, Naperville Chorus Secretary