

Music & Performance Report for Board June 2010

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To: board@westtowns.org

Here's the M&P report.

Ed McDevitt

- New Songs
 - "Witchcraft"
 - Will distribute late June
 - Teaching quartet working on learning tracks
 - Will continue adding new songs throughout year, one a month.
- Contest Prep (some repeat from May report - reminders)
 - Schedule ongoing
 - Taping
 - Everyone records both contest song 3 times, turns one version of each contest song in to section leader for review, comment and coaching
 - June 7, 14, 21
 - It's a personal training tool - but is also an important tool for section leaders to evaluate who needs help
 - Guys who do not submit will be sitting off risers on 6/28
 - We (Music Team) will use the tapes/sound files to make plans for training/re-training/other
 - Strong singers will be assigned to help specific singers with issues to raise performance levels
 - August tapings - evaluating Singing and SP
 - Audio AND Video
 - August 9, August 16
 - Anyone who declines to or fails to tape by drop-dead date (8/30) - not singing in competition
 - Singers who cannot meet minimal singing and SP criteria will be asked to remove themselves from competition
 - 100% nights all of September
 - 9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27
 - We will demonstrate by our leadership how important this is
 - We have 11 rehearsals between now and 8/30/2010

- Anyone below 75% attendance in those rehearsals will be subject to additional qualifications with members of Music Team
- Singing progress
 - We are making significant progress in singing, particularly in forming vowel sounds that are consistent across sections and across the chorus
 - We have identified some issues that we are addressing
 - Consistency remains a problem from week to week
- Rehearsal Evaluations (some repeat here)
 - Ongoing
 - We intend to start asking the chorus itself to evaluate the rehearsal at the end and will record the results
 - We will put the results on a chart so that everyone can participate in and see progress
 - Categories (proposed)
 - Retention / Progress Between Rehearsals (If we're retaining what we learned week to week, we're doing well.)
 - Learning / Progress During Rehearsal (If we're making progress every night, we're doing well.)
 - Preparation / Progress Outside Rehearsals (If we're learning outside rehearsal, we're much better off.)
 - Discipline (If guys concentrate, we're doing well.)
 - Presentation (Engagement / Believability / Entertainment)
 - Musicality (Expression / Ownership of the song)
 - Singing (Vocal Production / Unit Sound)
 - Heartistry - Overall success in changing people's lives through music.
 - We're still working on refining both the categories and the method of scoring (numeric, letter grades, etc.)
- Coaching sessions - Reminders
 - We have three coming up
 - Mark Hale, Monday, 7/12/2010
 - Kevin Keller, Saturday Retreat, 7/24/2010
 - Joe Connelly, Monday, 8/23
 - Coaching schedule has been announced
- Communication

- We intend to have regular messages to the membership
 - Progress
 - Things yet to do
 - Plans
- Individuals going to Harmony University/Director College (first week of August)
 - Dan Murphy
 - Mark Johnson
 - Joe Tomecek
 - Note: Dustin Wells is not going
- Director Search
 - Continues
 - Interviews
 - David Wallace (we declined to pursue - did not want to move from Ohio)
 - Gordon Krauspe (withdrew)
 - Joe Tomecek - active candidate
 - Tod Kowallis - Interviewed and auditioned - active candidate
 - Bruce Hall - interviewed and auditioned - active candidate
 - Jay Giallombardo - interviewed, will audition 6/21
 - Other candidates
 - Jeff Gougeon - Inquired - withdrew
 - Raymond Schwartzkopf - Active inquiry
 - Search team
 - will meet after Jay Giallombardo audition to determine next steps
 - Will make recommendation to Board when we are certain we have completed our search
- Smaller Performance Chorus/"VLQ"
 - Music team is developing criteria for groups that will properly represent WTC
 - Looking at program to sing
- Rehearsal July 5
 - Need to determine how many men will be available
 - Will possibly look at another evening that week

- Learning Tracks
 - Our teaching quartet (8 people) having scheduling issues
 - Looking at possibly buying learning tracks from outside for some songs to make sure that we are introducing songs regularly and on schedule

Ed McDevitt
VP, Music & Performance
