

# WOMEN'S VOICES RISING by the SEA

## ChoralFest at the Ferry Beach Conference Center, Saco, ME



August 2019

### Recapping Our Week Together

What a glorious week we had together!! You all showered me with thanks, both verbally and in writing on the special card you gave me. If you are bribing me to continue to be your coordinator, you have been successful. I'll be back in 2020 as will Michele and although I haven't asked him yet, I bet that Tim will return also.

Huge thanks goes to Jeff Lipton who chose gorgeous music for us to sing and masterfully organized and timed our rehearsal sessions so that we were relaxed and ready to sing our hearts out Thursday night and particularly Friday at chapel. I think we all reached deep to generate the best sound singly and therefore collectively that we could. Perhaps it was Jeff being in his second year and more familiar with us and Ferry Beach. Perhaps it was that many of us have sung together now for years and support one another's strengths and weaknesses. And I think the biggest perhaps is that we were all female this year. Whatever it was, we created magic.

Thanks should also be showered on many others who contributed throughout the planning and at the conference. I mentioned that Lorraine, Barb, Naomi and Ellie were my sounding board as we wrestled with decisions. Barb and Naomi did a great job leading the Saturday sessions. Ellie helped us relax with music on Monday night and Heidi and Tim introduced us to some great pieces on Tuesday night. And thanks to Jeane for adding that beautiful violin line to **The Road Home**, to Ellie for finding us a cellist and to so many of you who boldly took on the solos.

As usual, we took advantage of being together to begin making plans for next year. Some of the ideas that we shared at the Friday morning town hall session are

detailed below. We also decided to take some time to define what we would like in a music director for 2020. Jeff has expressed interest in returning for a third year and that certainly is a strong possibility. Some other names of choral conductors that attendees know and love have also been suggested. Some think we should invite a woman to be the director. Others felt that if we chose a New England based choir and/or choral director that he/she might invite singers from their group. More information to come in future newsletters.

### Outline of Plans for 2020

#### Schedule

- ✓ It is important to strike a balance between rehearsal and free time.
- ✓ Four hours of rehearsal per day is optimal so we may want to curtail singing in the evenings to rest our voices.
- ✓ Continue to share activities with GAYLA when appropriate. Other evenings could be free time or other activities that do not involve extensive singing.
- ✓ Have a longer rehearsal on Wednesday morning and have the afternoon off.
- ✓ Consider having the afternoon rehearsal time from 3:30 to 5:30 to allow for more beach time.

#### Music

- ✓ Continue to order "legal" music and have the attendees purchase their copies to take home with them.
- ✓ Continue to provide YouTube links for attendees to learn parts.
- ✓ Consider doing fewer songs for Friday chapel to free up time for some fun singing and vocal techniques.



- ✓ Encourage ChoralFest attendees to bring instruments

#### Friday service

- ✓ Although better this year, work on the balance between music and the spoken word to have less speaking.
- ✓ Finish service with **Imagine** or **Flying Free**.
- ✓ Some thought that the clapping detracted from the mood of the service and made it too much of a concert.
- ✓ Dress in rainbow colors on top and solid colors on bottom

#### Talent Show

- ✓ ChoralFest should not be the first act for TNT.
- ✓ Plan to sing one combined ChoralFest/GAYLA piece at TNT.



### ChoralFest 2020

July 11 to 17

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