**Membership Report for VHS May 19, 2021 Board Meeting**

Last month I was asked to check on Ailsa and Rose to see how they were doing. This is the reply that Rose Matic sent me.

**Rose Matic** <cantinarose1@yahoo.com>

**To:** Ben Marder

Thu, Apr 22 at 8:24 PM

Hi Ben, so nice of you to reach out!

I went back to ACC for Zoom rehearsals - we had to self-record 3 songs as part of the Spring virtual concert.

We had a few parking lot rehearsals in our cars using special mics and a private radio station so we could hear each other live but the sound quality was poor.

I never heard of Jamulus - I wonder why no one in ACC seemed to know about it - it sounds like what we’ve all been wanting!

Hopefully soon we can get together live - I’ve had both shots as have almost everyone I know.

But we are a huge group and usually packed together like sardines so they’d need to find a bigger rehearsal space!

Work has been very stressful; I pulled a tendon in my arm catching a patient who was falling and am currently off - I needed a break anyway!

Definitely let me know when the guest night is and I’ll try to attend!

Thanks! 😊

Rose 🌹

Sent from my iPhone

**This is Ailsa’s reply:** “Hi Ben, Thank you for the email. I got both doses of the Pfizer vaccine and my workload is no longer as hectic as it was before, since I was working directly on covid vaccination tracking data.

That is great about the new software ( jamulus). Do you know if the chorus ever plans to meet up in person, or would be too high a risk until covid is completely gone?

Ailsa

MEETUP: Since my last membership report, we have had 5 people join us (VHS) on meetup.

This is how I process all new meetup members,

1. I check their profile to see where they live and their music background. I then send them a welcoming message and ask if they would like to attend our next Zoom meeting.
2. I then ask for their contact info.
3. If they respond positive, I send them our Zoom info. for our next Zoom meeting.
4. Recently If they live out of our area, I refer them to choruses in their town and state.
5. Some people out of the area still desire to meet us on Zoom.
6. If they want to join us a second time, I send them Bob Karlin’s Librarian chorus email address. Bob will then send them sheet music and the learning track of the week.

Bonnie Janofsky: I recently sent a letter to the Music Team voicing my concern on their Audition Procedures as far as time being allowed for a candidate to prepare for their auditions. I believe it is the section leaders’ obligation to take a major role in this endeavor.

After reading the Music V.P. Team Report, I see that a date has been setup for Bonnie to audition on jamulus. This needs to be followed through for the Good of the Chorus and all future perspective candidates.

In see in the music section of our website that we have 26 learning tracks plus the sheet music. We also have the revised sheet music. This is quite an achievement for Bob Karlin and the Music Team. The Music section of our website has played a major role and service to our members and guests

I recently called the director of St. Mark’s to see if there was any change in their current status. Peggy Rizzo of the River Oaks Chorus did the same. We haven’t heard from Robin, the director.

**Member Questions: Can My Chorus Sing Together Safely If We Are All Vaccinated?**

*Liza Beth | March 16, 2021*

*Chorus America staff is always happy to answer specific questions from members with personalized information and resources. In our new High Notes blog feature, Member Questions, we will periodically share answers to frequently asked questions with our whole community. Please feel free to email*[*[email protected]*](file:///C:\cdn-cgi\l\email-protection#127f777f707760617a7b6252717a7d606761737f77607b71733c7d6075)*with additional questions or feedback.*

**Q: As more people begin to get vaccinated, are there any new guidelines from the CDC around singing together again? If all of our singers get vaccinated and we wait the recommended amount of time afterwards, is it safe for us to sing together again?**

Because we are still learning about the vaccine’s effectiveness, the answer unfortunately is that currently there continues to be no way to eliminate all risk from gathering singers – even vaccinated singers – together in person.

On March 9, the CDC[released new guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html) stating that small groups of fully vaccinated people can gather indoors without masks. They do not specifically state the size of a small group, but our interpretation from reading the guidelines is that it refers to only a handful of people. They have not released any new guidance specifically around singers and choruses.

The CDC still recommends that even fully vaccinated people stay away from medium and large groups, because of unanswered questions about how effective vaccines are against variants of the virus and how well COVID-19 vaccines keep vaccinated people from spreading the disease among others. And they emphasize the importance of taking continued precautions like masking and being in well-ventilated spaces. If you do decide to gather singers in person, you should strictly adhere to all possible precautions to reduce the risk.

**Some questions to consider include:**

* Are your singers’ families or households fully vaccinated?
* What’s going on in terms of variant spread in your community?
* What is the space you would be gathering in like in terms of room size (if indoors) and ventilation conditions?

The CDC will continue to updated its guidance as more continues to be known. We recommend that choruses look to their local health departments for information specific to their area as well.

I think we’re getting closer to being back in person. I feel that the attitude and spirit of our chorus has been uplifting this past year. We’re almost back. I’m proud of our members for sticking with us. The River Oaks Chorus are down to 15 members. They have only been meeting every other week.

I can’t wait for all of us the sing on jamulus next week.

Ben Marder, Membership V.P. VHS 5-18-21