

Music Committee Report

It has been an unfortunately bumpy year for the music program and committee. We have a number of issues we are working on, all of which have taken many hours of work and are not yet complete.

1. Our new director of Music Ministry, Kevin Vondrak, gave notice (for personal reasons) and resigned after only 3 months with us (November 2021-January 2022). Jodi Bohr has again stepped up to cover the entire program until we can find a new director. Through personal connections we have contacted several people and have placed ads in the Philadelphia chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the American Choral Directors Association. We are offering a competitive salary and the attraction of conducting a professional quartet.
2. Having had to move out of the music room in June of 2020, our music and other supplies have been piled in the music office and in an adjacent room on the 2nd floor. We have now installed two large bookcases which are filled with 330 boxes of choral scores. Our aim is to move the music office into a “music suite” next to the archives. This larger room will hold 2 desks for the 2 musicians and a number of shelf units for their personal scores. The room was painted in January (thank you Peter and Linda Brown!) but it seems that a few weekend workdays will be necessary to get the furniture moved. This is urgent, as Jodi does not have access to many of her personal organ and piano scores until we make the move.
3. Through the heroic efforts of many helpers we have labeled all the boxes of music scores and cross referenced them with the digital listing of the library. Additional weeding of scores will be necessary in order to be able to fit all the boxes onto the shelves.
4. The covers of the sturdy red chairs that were in the old music room have rotted (due to heat and/or sunlight) and were leaving red dust on clothing. Ann Perrone, David Brown and Jan Tebbel have worked to take apart the chairs, vacuum the dust off and cover them with an elasticized cover of a similar color. This work is ongoing and we will have to do the chairs that are in the chancel of the church for the same reason. They are good quality chairs and the foam is in very good condition. Although it has taken and will take many more hours, it is clearly the responsible way to address this challenge.
5. The church choir reunited to start rehearsals in mid-November. We rehearsed in the Parlor, using the piano that had been in the chapel (having lost our rehearsal space in June of 2020). However a COVID surge caused these rehearsals to be suspended before Christmas and they have not yet restarted. The piano suffered greatly from the heat in the

Parlor and the piano tuner advised that it be moved from that room immediately. It is now in the Gribbel room, which works fine as a rehearsal space for the quartet or a small choir. We do realize that this has been a challenge for Adult Academy but since this is a new piano, we must act responsibly.

6. We thank our quartet: Jessica Murphy (soprano), Jessica Lowe (alto), Michael Yancey (tenor) and Kareem Mack (baritone) for their fine leadership through hymns and choral works. Their leadership is particularly important on the livestream.

We can never thank Jodi enough for her excellent leadership in all facets of the music program as our choral director position remains empty. Her faith and love are evident in her keyboard work, advocacy for the pianos and organ, choice of choral and keyboard repertoire, concern for COVID safety, good communication and flexibility. Thanks be to God for sending her to us.

Submitted by Jan Tebbel, chair