Establishing and Sustaining Choral Consortiums:
Lessons Learned From the Trenches

Gina Poole  
Greater Boston Choral Consortium

Deborah Simpkin King  
New York Choral Consortium

Scott Kovacs  
Greater Seattle Choral Consortium

Dwayne Eriksen, Moderator  
Greater Seattle Choral Consortium
Establishing and Sustaining Choral Consortia: Lessons Learned From the Trenches

Session Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Duration (Minutes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome and Introduction</td>
<td>Dwayne</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consortium Background and Member Services</td>
<td>Gina, Deborah &amp; Scott</td>
<td>15 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Formation Steps Example</td>
<td>Dwayne</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Q&amp;A and Discussion</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Greater Boston Choral Consortium

Gina Poole

ginapoole@verizon.net
GBCC

Greater Boston Choral Consortium

www.BostonSings.org
“The GBCC is an invaluable source of networking in our music community.”

Catherine Peterson
Executive Director
ArtsBoston
“My life flows on in endless song;  
Above earth’s lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, tho’ far-off hymn  
That hails a new creation;  
Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear the music ringing;  
It finds an echo in my soul --  

_How can I keep from singing?_”
Greater Boston Choral Consortium 2012-13 Season: www.bostonsings.org

A Besame Valt: www.choralboston.org/community/choir
The A Cappella Singers: www.thecappellaesingers.org
Back Bay Chorale: www.backbaychorale.org
The Boston Cecilia: www.bostoncecilia.org
Boston Gay Men’s Chorus: www.bgmc.org
Braintree Choral Society: www.braintreens.org
Brookline A Cappella, s.ammanoulidou@rivers.org
Calliope: www.calliopermusic.com
Cantata Singers: www.cantatasingers.org
Cappella Clausura: www.clausura.org
Capriccio Children’s Chorus at Rivers School: www.riversschoolconservatory.org
Choral Art Society: www.choralartsociety.org
Consortium: www.consortium.org
Coro Allegro: www.coroallegro.org
Fine Arts Chorale: www.theartschorale.org
Golden Tones: www.goldentones.org
Greater Boston Intergenerational Chorus: www.bostonchorus.net
Harvard Pro Musica: www.harvardpromusica.org
Heritage Chorale: www.heritagechorale.org
Highland Okee Club: www.highlandookenclub.com
In Choro Novo: www.inchoronovo.com
King’s Chapel Concert Series: www.kings-chapel.org
Kolnari, Boston’s Jewish Community Chorus: www.kolnari.org
Lexington Pops Chorus: www.lexingtonpopschorus.com
Musica Sacra: www.musicasacra.org
Mythic Chorale: www.mythichorale.org
Newton Community Chorus: www.newtoncommunitychorus.org
The Newton Singers: www.thenewtonsingers.org
The Paul Masse Chorale: www.paulmascchorale.org
Quincy Choral Society: www.quinnychoral.org
Revels: www.revels.org
Schola Amatorum, www.voiceboston.org(Schola)
Somerville Community Choir: www.somervillechorus.org
Stambrandt - The Scandinavian Vocal Ensemble: www.stambrandt.org
Stow Festival Chorus & Orchestra: www.soundsofstow.com
Trinity Chorus of New England: www.trinitychorus.org
Voces Rising: www.vocesrising.com
Wakefield Choral Society: www.wakefieldchoralsociety.com
Youth Pro Musica: www.youthpromusica.org


Greater Boston Choral Consortium 2012-13 Season: www.bostonsings.org

Fayda/Drakal et al.; 6/14/13 Pops concert, Arlington Town Hall. Other performances at Arlington UU Church, 3 pm. acc. by the Arlington Phil. Orchestra: www.arlingtonphil.org


Broadmoor Chamber Singers, June Ambuhl, Dir., 339-224-0951. Dec. 1, 3 PM: A Season of Memories, Morse Institute Library, Natick, MA. Dec 8-7 PM: A Season of Memories, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA. Rehearsals Monday 7:30-9 PM, Christ Lutheran Church, Natick, MA. www.broadmoorings.org

Cambridge Chamber Singers, Ray Faehnle, Dir., 617-527-2191. Dec. 8, 8 PM, 1st Church, Cambridge; Dec. 9, 7 PM, Caleandron Hill: Icons of the Nativity: Josquin, Debussy, Tavener; May 4, 8 PM; May 3, 7 PM: A Garden of Musical Delights: Monteverdi, Duni, Tournin. Winner of our Composition Competition www.cambridgechamberingers.org

Cambridge Community Chorus, Jamie Kirsch, Music Dir., 617-317-3169. Dec. 9, 3 pm: Dove, Mendelssohn, and Britten with soloists and orchestra; Kress Auditorium, MIT. Dec. 16, 2 pm: Messiah Sung, St. Bartholomew’s. Cambridge, May 19, 3 pm: Brahms: A German Requiem with soloists and orchestra; Kress Auditorium, MIT. www.cambridgechonors.org


Greater Boston Choral Consortium Program Insert
Four-page Format (Part 2)

Greater Boston Choral Consortium
2012-13 Season: www.bostonsings.org
Call numbers listed for chorus information or 978-393-2293 / gbccinfo@gmail.com


Halalisa Singers, Mary Neumann, Dir. 781-862-6533. “To Reach the Golden Door: Songs of Immigration” First Parish Lexington. Jan. 26, 8 P.M. First Parish WobActon Jan 27. 3 P.M. “Celebrating 20 Years Together” First Parish Lexington April 27, 8 P.M. First Church Litton, April 28. 3 P.M. www.halalisa.org


Mastersingers of Lexington, Adam Grossman, Dir. 781-862-6429. Nov 3. 8 P.M. Celebrate Lexington’s 300th Year! w: Joan Dumont. Dec. 9, 8 P.M. Mozart and Pergolesi. Feb. 9, 8 P.M. 16th annual children’s concert. March 3. 4 P.M. Pops! May 11, 8 P.M. Reem and Brahms. All but Feb 9 at 1st Parish Church. 7 Harrington Rd. Lexington. www.themastersingers.org


Reading Community Singers, Beth Mosier, Dir. 781-844-4739. December 1, 7:30 PM, December 2, 3 PM. “Season of Joy”, Old South United Methodist Church. 6 Salem St. (corner of Rt 18 and Rt 139) Reading, MA. “A Little Traveling Music” May 4, 2013, 7:30 PM Parker Middle School, Temple St, Reading, MA. www.readingcommunitysingers.org


New York Choral Consortium

Deborah Simpkin King

deborahking@scholaonhudson.org
New York City choruses collaborating in mutual support to enhance awareness of the substantial value of choral singing

www.NewYorkChoralConsortium.org
History, Phase I

Early 1970s – early 2000s
Informal, practical beginnings

• Early 1970s through 1980s (‘Interchorus’ – really?!) 
• Informal, primarily surrounding repertoire plans 
• Unwritten agreement of collegial programming respect 
• Early 1990s : less active 
• Repertoire comparing, primarily just major symphonic choruses
History, Phase II
2003-2009
Emergence of
Professional Pertinence and Credibility

• 2003 wake-up call: aborted Carnegie merger
• 2009: crisis of credibility – firmly established!
History, Phase III
2009 – 2012
Formalization and Growth

- Incorporation process and name: 2009-2010
- Who can be a member defined
- Sing New York! and THE BIG SING: June 2011
  - Explosion of visibility
  - Membership triples!
- Board of a ‘New York-size’ Whole! 2011-2012
(Video Clip)
This Season: 2012-2013

- Founding co-chair moves from the country and is succeeded
- First-ever non-plenary board
  - Board meetings of elected officers
  - Four plenary gatherings
- Full-season marketing efforts: monthly concert e-blasts
- Social media element established
- Performance of Ives’ Symphony #4 with the NY Philharmonic: collective choir of member choruses
Our Public Face

The Big Sing
Social Media Gathering Spot
Monthly Concert E-blasts
Occasional high-visibility events
Member Benefits

Collegial Networking Events

- For singers
- For directors & administrators

Informational Seminars
Member Benefits, cont’d

Closed Facebook group for member exchange, discussion, discount offers

Internal programming calendar

Collegial negotiations, as needed
Current considerations . . .

- Keeping full membership engaged with the new board structure
- Equitable fulfillment of increasing role of ‘choral clearinghouse’
- Engagement with our five-borough municipality in furtherance of choral impact financially, demographically, etc.
New York City! - where choral artists unite in support of life impact through Choral Singing!
Greater Seattle Choral Consortium
Scott Kovacs
info@seattlesings.org

Vision
The Greater Seattle Choral Consortium envisions a region of thriving choral ensembles that enrich our community through shared resources and inspired artistry.

Mission
The Greater Seattle Choral Consortium promotes the choral art in the greater Seattle area through cooperation, public awareness, and performance.
Outline

• Background and Formation
• Member Services
• Words of Wisdom
• Background and Formation
  – Inspired by the Greater Boston Choral Consortium
  – Initial meeting in July, 2010 (list of needs and hopes created)
  – Steering committee formed
  – 501c3 process started, bylaws written, board instituted
  – 1st general meeting in January 2011
• Member Services
  – Google Group (information sharing)
  – Music lending service
  – Member concerts listing (program insert)
  – Festival (Seattle Sings! 2013)
  – Resource sharing
  – Programs in progress: collaborations, outreach and education
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHORAL PERFORMANCE</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancora</td>
<td>Ancora Choir.org</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>13 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVE Renaissance Women's Choir</td>
<td><a href="http://www.EarlyMusicGuild.org/Tickets/CommunityCollegia/Ave/">www.EarlyMusicGuild.org/Tickets/CommunityCollegia/Ave/</a></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>15 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bainbridge Chorale</td>
<td><a href="http://www.BainbridgeChorale.org">www.BainbridgeChorale.org</a></td>
<td>Bainbridge Island</td>
<td>13 - 14 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue Chamber Chorus</td>
<td><a href="http://www.BellevueChamberChorus.org">www.BellevueChamberChorus.org</a></td>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td>13 - 14 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue Girlchoir</td>
<td><a href="http://www.BellevueGirlchoir.com">www.BellevueGirlchoir.com</a></td>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td>13 - 14 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir of the Sound</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ChoirOfTheSound.org">www.ChoirOfTheSound.org</a></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choral Arts</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ChoralArts.org">www.ChoralArts.org</a></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Cantabile Choir</td>
<td><a href="http://www.CityCantabile.org">www.CityCantabile.org</a></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cora Voce</td>
<td><a href="http://www.CoraVoce.org">www.CoraVoce.org</a></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthrise Chamber Choir</td>
<td>www.earthrise_chamber_choir.php</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Chorus Eastside</td>
<td><a href="http://www.MasterChorusEastside.org">www.MasterChorusEastside.org</a></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Northwest Vocal Ensemble</td>
<td><a href="http://www.PNWVocalEnsemble.org">www.PNWVocalEnsemble.org</a></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Conservatory of Music</td>
<td><a href="http://www.SeattleConservatory.org">www.SeattleConservatory.org</a></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Opera Chorale</td>
<td><a href="http://www.SeattleOperaChorale.org">www.SeattleOperaChorale.org</a></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Youth Choir</td>
<td><a href="http://www.SeattleYouthChoir.org">www.SeattleYouthChoir.org</a></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity Chamber Singers</td>
<td><a href="http://www.TrinityChamberSingers.org">www.TrinityChamberSingers.org</a></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington Choir</td>
<td><a href="http://www.UWChoralCenter.org">www.UWChoralCenter.org</a></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Washington University Singers</td>
<td><a href="http://www.WSUChoralCenter.org">www.WSUChoralCenter.org</a></td>
<td>Bellingham</td>
<td>10 Mar - 2 Jun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• **Words of Wisdom**
  – Grassroots - what does the community need?
  – Include all the stakeholders: singers, directors, managers, board members.
  – How will you get to where you want to be: business plan, mission/vision, by-laws, incorporation, steering committee, plenary board?
  – Sing together!
Business Formation Steps
An Example

Dwayne Eriksen
deriksen@ymail.com
Establishing and Sustaining Choral Consortiums: Lessons Learned From the Trenches

• Determine feasibility.
  – Convene meeting(s) of interested parties (artistic directors, administrators, board members, others).
  – Brainstorm possible services – (suggest contacting other consortiums and reviewing their websites).
  – Determine geographic scope.
  – Determine choir type scope (e.g., independent, church-based, academic-based, etc.).
  – **STOP:** Go/No Go decision.
• Form steering committee.
• Refine and prioritize services.
• All volunteer staff, or some compensated?
• Obtain professional support.
  – Legal advice from nonprofit attorney.
  – Technical support (e.g., webmaster).
• Develop articles of incorporation.
• Incorporate as a nonprofit (state level).
• Begin conducting regular board meetings.

  NOTE: The founding directors identified during incorporation serve as the initial board of directors.

• Develop bylaws.
• Formulate 3-year budget.
• Apply for federal income tax-exempt status (501(c)(3)).
• Establish committees and task forces, as needed. Suggestions:
  – Executive Committee (officers) – to manage day-to-day operations.
  – Membership Committee.
  – Technology Committee.
  – Marketing Committee.
  – Task forces to develop each major initial service.
Have fun and enjoy the satisfaction that comes from forming a new organization that supports this wonderful art form!
Establishing and Sustaining Choral Consortiums: Lessons Learned From the Trenches

Open Q&A and Discussion