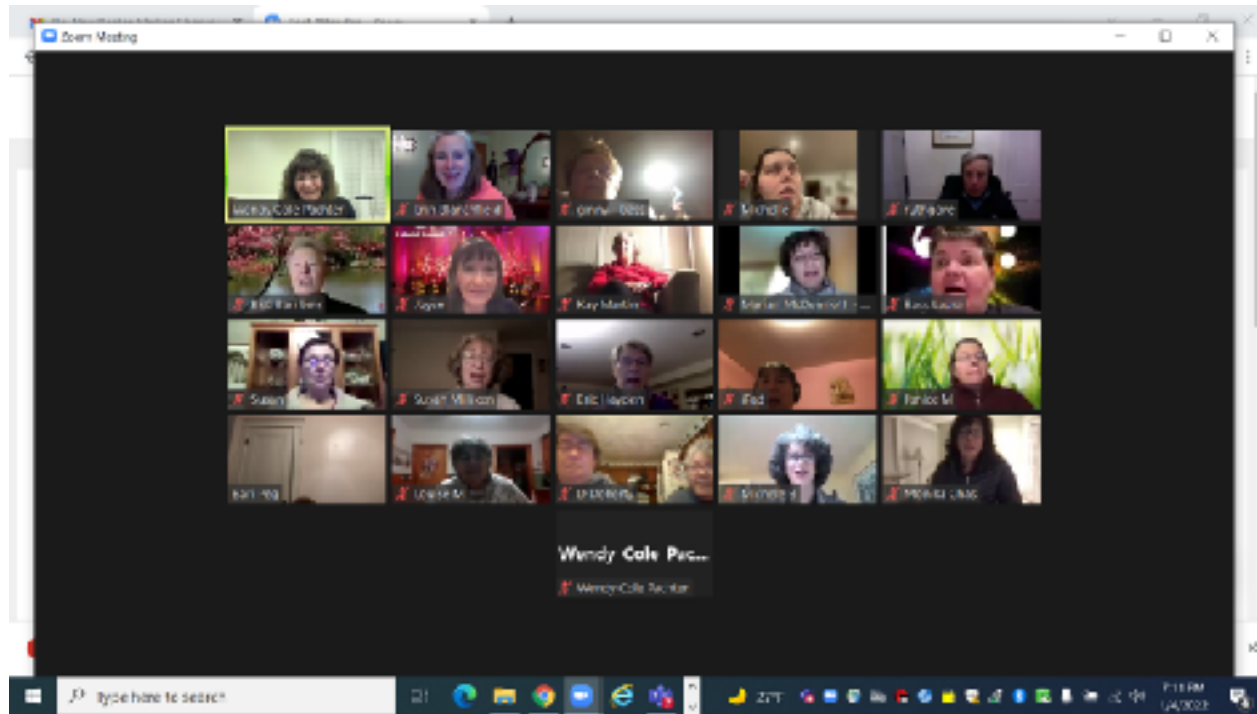


# Zoom Meeting – January 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

This week there were 22 of us that logged into Zoom. Wendy is still on vacation in sunny Florida but keeps us going strong from afar!

First we worked on intervals

Our repertoire song was We are Family



**Town Hall:** Wendy likes to have an annual Town Hall to check in on the chorus. What is it we envision for the upcoming year? What do we need? Wendy wants our input to make it what works best for us all.

Wendy's focus has changed to one of retention, fun and a valuable experience. She wants us to all walk away with knowledge.

Wendy sent us a poll that we all worked on:

1. Learning to read music?
  - a. I'd liked to continue to learn how to read music on the staff
  - b. I'd like to continue ear training (solfege) and sight reading
  - c. I'd like to learn how to recognize harmonies

2. Learning how to perform?
  - a. I'd like to learn to be a better visual performer
  - b. I'd like to continue watching other chorus performances
  - c. I's like to learn how to choreograph a song
3. Other Activities
  - a. More opportunities to connect with chorus members on zoom
  - b. More music games
  - c. Have outside activity with chorus members (walking club or biking)
4. Stepping it up
  - a. I would like to learn how to be a tape checker
  - b. I would like to help demonstrate choreography
  - c. I would like to help lead stretches for weekly rehearsals
  - d. I am interested in learning a different voice part
  - e. I would be interested in being a recording secretary for music staff meetings
5. Please email Wendy if you have checked any boxes in #4 – opportunities for growth
  - a. Wenmus1@aol.com

Then we had open discussion about what we like learning:

**On Zoom:**

- Enjoy singing more repertoire
- Take advantage of Zoom and do education things that we can't do in person
- Practice starting pitches
- Watch two choruses sing the same song and compare. Or watch the same chorus repeat the same song later and see their improvement
- Coaches have given us the categories – have each member have a scoring sheet in front of them and see if we can hear what the coaches hear
- Watched video taped past coaching sessions of our chorus

### **In person:**

- Review choreo with each song to help us stay in motion
- Suggestion of doing two songs all the way through with performance. Videotape and paly back to see the movement
- Have a cheat sheet for song set list at performance. The last performance at Woburn Senior Center in particular was very difficult to try and get whispered cue from Wendy as to what song was next. If each member had a small set list maybe in their sleeve, that would help.
- Work on vocal production and vowel matching
- A previous chorus member was considering coming back but was daunted by the thought of re-passing all of the songs. Suggest people to sing with a quartet to pass a song. We have implemented so many new methods in the past couple of years to get people to pass songs besides just submitting a tape to your tape checker.
- Still valuable to have coaches even if we are not using them for competition – but rather to give us lessons, improve our singing or work on our riser placement for sound.

The topic then changed to what do we feel about evaluations and competitions:

- We want to be as good as we can be, but not repeating a song to a point of nausea
- One member stated that she doesn't think of it as a competition anymore but rather a performance. Get past the technical and enjoy! Personal obligation is to learn my music for myself
- If we perform well, then we will compete well
- We get more out of our music education by performing for an audience. We could group our music into performance packages (ie: Just for Kids, Patriotic, Songs that go Way Back). Make it more like storytelling.
- We can shake things up and reinvent ourselves.
- If we have competition this year – one member stated that she is going in more relaxed this time because we know the songs and we have had some much time together as a chorus through this pandemic. Going forward, she would have more of a competitive perspective.
- One member stated that they would find it hard to compete with masks on. You can't get the whole visual expression.
- Maybe this year our focus instead of competition could be that of coaching to be better singers

- Wendy mentioned that she loved being a part of the chorus and singing with us at some of the performances at the end of 2021. She thought that we performed differently and listened more.

We have a visit with our Regional Buddies – Beth and Lala, on January 17<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-7:20pm. Please all attend who can and ask questions about competition and the direction of the Region for this upcoming year.