

Transcription of Episode 350: Community Singers

SPEAKERS

Karen Adamik, Bob Firing

Note: This transcription was computer-generated and may contain typographical errors.

Bob Firing 00:00

Good morning Shadow Hills. Well, the holidays are upon us. And it wouldn't be Christmas time without our Community Singers. And here to tell us about the Community Singers is Karen Adamik. Karen, welcome to the podcast.

Karen Adamik 00:24

Thanks very much glad to be here and glad to be have this opportunity to just get the word out to all of our residents and friends and family about this wonderful group of people.

Bob Firing 00:35

Well, I like to start these out with a little bit of personal information. How long have you been a resident of Shadow Hills? And what's your background in music?

Karen Adamik 00:47

I'm going on 17 years, here I at Shadow Hills. Doesn't seem that long. It's it seems like it's gone in in a blink of an eye. But 17 years, this group, Sun City, Shadow Hills singers, community singers began in 2007. And I've had the honor the privilege, I'm humbled to say, to be able to be Music Director for that long room since 2007. My background is in semi-pro, pro, vocal piano, choral musical theater, etc, etc. Mostly in the LA area. Primarily though I was I was an instructor I wasn't I was a teacher K through adult for 30-some years and enjoyed every minute of it.

Bob Firing 01:40

Oh, yeah. What was it your idea to form the singers?

Karen Adamik 01:43

No, actually, it was one of the member who is still singing with us, Pat Rosandich, who is Pat De Salvo. She was one of the original founding members as well as a couple other women from our community who no longer live here, said we need a group. We need a vocal group here a choral group. And let's have fun.

Bob Firing 02:06

And how many performances do you do on average?

Karen Adamik 02:09

We do two performances here in our community, one around the holiday time period and one in the spring. But we do lots of outside service performances also for small parties and groups and assisted livings and churches and et cetera, et cetera, keeps us busy, keeps our brains active and keeps us happy.

Bob Firing 02:32

Yeah. So how is membership been, and how were you affected by the pandemic?

Karen Adamik 02:39

The pandemic was actually a difficult thing for us. Because singing was a high risk activity. It was labeled from the very beginning as a high risk app activity as far as communicating virus. We literally have been off for two years. So our membership also has been reduced. But they're small. We've got 41 singers, and they're mighty, and they're determined, and they're dedicated.

Bob Firing 03:06

41 sounds like quite a few to me, how many did you have before the pandemic?

Karen Adamik 03:11

Pre-pandemic, we were up to about 85 members. And we were really strong. And I'm hoping that eventually people will feel secure enough to be able to come back. But we want to take and be respectful of everybody's decision.

Bob Firing 03:24

And when did you start rehearsing for the holidays?

Karen Adamik 03:26

Sure. Oh, this show, actually was my brainstorming all over the summer. That's what I do in the summers is planned for two shows that are coming up in the next in the next season, per se. And then the members themselves start rehearsing in September. And we work from September until December this year, December 18. To put on the best show we possibly can for our community.

Bob Firing 03:53

And, so different, I know there's altos. Yeah, but do they have different songs and they're doing different things?

Karen Adamik 04:05

Oh, yes, absolutely. We run full gamut, choral music: soprano, alto, tenor, bass. That's, that's a normal four part for a choral group. And sometimes more than that. We just have people who just love to sing in harmony.

Bob Firing 04:22

Now, they're very well Nice. Maybe some people out there who would like to join you have? How often do you meet?

Karen Adamik 04:30

We meet every Monday and it sounds like a long time but it's really not. We meet for three hours on a Monday and we break it up like the women will meet for a certain time period, then the men will meet for a certain time period. And then everybody comes together at that end of that three hours. So we get a good combo of hearing everybody's voices and parts individually and then ultimately together. That's where the energy comes from.

Bob Firing 04:56

Is this in the morning or the afternoon?

Karen Adamik 04:58

Afternoon. We do Monday afternoons from about 3:30pm to 6:30pm.

Bob Firing 05:02

I see. Okay. And I know that Christmas is in the air. But I Are you thinking about the spring performance?

Karen Adamik 05:13

Yes, we are. We're thinking forward to the spring performance. And we've got a collection of music that I think our community is just going to love. We're calling it "Sing, Sing, Sing The Big Band Beat." We had started it a while ago, never had a chance to perform it. So we've added to it, we've pumped it up, and it's going to be more exciting than ever. Gonna be cool.

Bob Firing 05:35

So is there just one performance and in December?

Karen Adamik 05:38

In December, there is only one our calendaring is was a bit challenging this year. So we only have one performance in the afternoon on December 18. And then we'll see what happens as far as the spring goes. If we get enough interest, we might be able to run two performances, if the ballroom is available and all falls into place.

Bob Firing 05:58

Okay. And are you selling tickets now or not yet?

Karen Adamik 06:02

Yes, yes, absolutely. We want to encourage everyone if you want to hear some great holiday music, and we've got some great Hanukkah music we're going to do in this concert too. If you want to hear any of that get up to the Lifestyle desk in the Montecito Clubhouse. Tickets are available there all the time.

Sun City Shadow Hills®

We do not have reserved seats. It's a first come first serve basis. And we think we're a bargain at 12 bucks a ticket. So get up there and get your tickets.

Bob Firing 06:30

Okay. Well, thank you for coming in and telling us about it. And for the audience. They need more singers and they certainly need people to enjoy the music.

Karen Adamik 06:43

Absolutely don't remember or don't forget . . . *♪chestnuts roasting on an open fire♪*. You got to get there to get the feeling.

Bob Firing 06:54

Got it. And I won't do a duet with you. So why not make it to make it easy on the audience?

Karen Adamik 07:00

Ah, I'd love to do a duet with you.

Bob Firing 07:02

Well, thank you for coming in. And for the audience. Until next time, bye-bye.