

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Annual General Meeting – September 21, 2023

Welcome to Lyric's Annual General Meeting for 2023!

Thank you all for attending tonight and for your support of RLMT over the past year. Thank you to everyone on the Board who prepared a report to summarize their contributions over the past year and Jane Ursan for summarizing the shows that made up our 2022-23 season.

The 45th Anniversary Sapphire Gala, held last December at the Atlas Hotel, was truly a glorious evening, and such a gorgeous overview of Lyric's accomplishments over the years. Special thanks to everyone who contributed to planning and executing the gala. Sincerest gratitude to every performer, recognizing especially Jane Ursan who Directed the concert performance, Lydon Bray as MC, and Joan Ziffle and Tyson Harvey for managing sound.

At the invitation of his honour the LG Russ Mirasty, the Board nominated Jane Ursan and Joan Ziffle for Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medals for the work they have each done over many years to support Regina Lyric Musical Theatre. The awards ceremony on February 28th was made more special by having former board president and long time member and supporter Carolyn Spiers as the MC.

As outlined in Jane's report, the Lyric Singers *Here Come the 70's* shows were a great success. Not only was the music great fun to perform, the crowds were enthusiastic, the house was fairly full both nights, for the first time we had an expanded canteen that was a revenue generator, and we trialled a more cabaret style show at the Hungarian Club with table seating and an option for bar service which proved to be popular. Special thanks to Joan Ziffle for her decorating skills, to everyone who made the 2 shows evenings to remember, and to everyone on the organizing committee who worked so hard behind the scenes to make it all look effortless.

You will see that our Board still has vacancies. Elections of board members are next on the agenda, and if you've ever thought of joining us for fun and rewarding times, please express your interest!

With a successful and memorable 2022-23 season behind us, we at Lyric send heartfelt thanks to all the donors, members, directors, performers, backstage crews, volunteers and – most of all – our audiences who make our existence possible.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to Janet, Megan, Ryan, Adriana, Tyson, Deanna and Jamie who have supported and guided me through my first year as President and to Jeff, whose continued behind the scenes support of lyric's financial management has been invaluable. There is so much to learn! Lyric's board is truly at work constantly and it is a privilege to be a part of so much passion and commitment to this organization.

We are all very excited for what the 2023-24 season will bring RLMT.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Besse, President