

MIDSUMMER NEWS



August 2020

FROM THE BOARD


The amazing generosity and support of the MMR community has humbled us as Board members. You have created a financial reserve that should see us through this crisis. You have also reminded us of the importance of MMR in our musical lives. Thank you.

The Board is committed to re-charging and re-opening as soon as it is safe to engage in all the aspects of MMR that make it so special. We have used this time to re-organize how we manage our joint effort. We have formalized the Social Committee, and formed a Skit Night Committee and a Media Committee. All have been active and are very productive.

We have also formed a special committee under the chairmanship of Jane Hutcheson to clarify the conditions needed for returning to MMR as we know it. The committee brings real hard-headed medical expertise to the problems of musical ensembles rehearsing at this time. They are keeping up to date on the details to be learned about aerosol transmission, air exchange and other knitty-gritty matters. We are also talking to Whitman about how they are handling food service and what musical programs they are comfortable supporting.

We urge you all to read and understand the Covid Phases currently in force in the state of Washington: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/safe-start/whats-open-each-phase>. These guidelines will be decisive in 2021. Most of the state is currently in Phase 2. In Phase 3, high-risk populations are instructed to continue to stay home and gatherings are limited to fewer than 50 people. Phase 4 allows high-risk populations to engage in social interactions with social distancing and gatherings of more than 50 people including concert venues.



 Follow the Midsummer Musical Retreat Group on Facebook!

A VIRTUAL SAMPLING

All of the performance venues at MMR are sorely missed this year. While we can't replace the Fermata Bar, Club Morendo and the Saturday Sampling, please join us, virtually, on our new performance website, [MMRConcerthall.org](https://www.mmrconcerthall.org)

The Concert Hall is a showcase for videos of your quarantine musical activities: solos on your deck, multi-screen quartets, backyard ensembles and combos... whatever you are doing. Post anytime throughout the year, and even post videos from past performances at in-person Camp. You are welcome to post groups that include non-campers, but posts must include a MMR camper or faculty.

Go to The Concert Hall at <https://www.mmrconcerthall.org> for instructions on how to post and links to videos that can help you create your own recordings.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Hello MMR! I'm **Heather Irwin**, sometimes flutist and mostly singer, and I am delighted to join the board to help in planning our lovely week in Walla Walla.

My parents placed me in their church's children's choir at age 4 after watching me do my best to imitate Whitney Houston whenever she was on the radio. Thankfully, social media did not exist back then. I haven't stopped singing since and am currently the soprano section leader for Cascadian Chorale, the treasurer of Summer Fling Singers, and participate with Eastside Midday Singers and Holy Cross Episcopal Church's choir. I started playing flute and piccolo in elementary school and currently enjoy playing at church. The community-building aspect of music is what keeps me coming back.

I chose to attend the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY because they were the only college that I found that let me study both engineering and music. I graduated with a degree in Optics from the Institute of Optics, yet I was also able to take voice lessons at the Eastman School of Music.

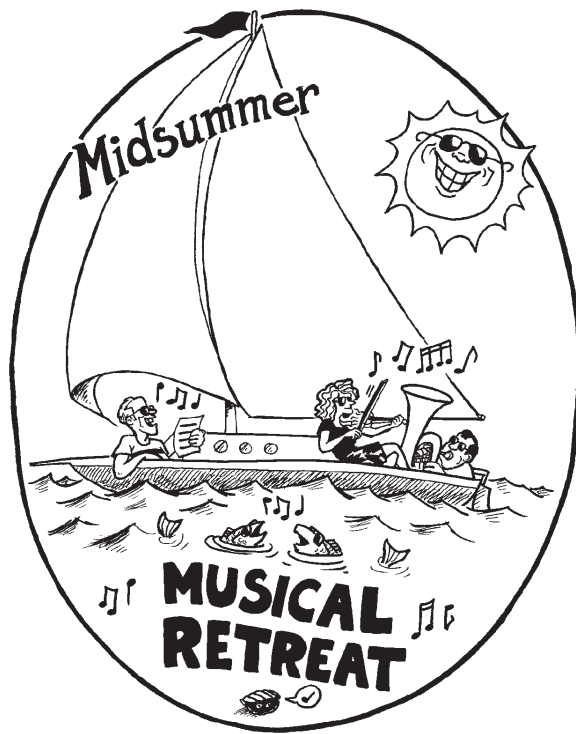


My name is **Paul Sayan**, and I am honored to be serving on the Board of Directors for the Midsummer Musical Retreat Summer 2020. This will be my third year, and what a remarkable experience I have found this to be. I hope that is your impression, too.

My instruments are the Trombone, Euphonium, and Guitar. And when I get a chance I like to write a little music, too.

Like many of you, I started in elementary school and have kept going since those days. I started in Band in 1971. I attended Central Washington University where I received my degree in Music Education. I was honored to play in ensembles with Directors Larry Gookin and John Mowod. My post-college experiences include Seward Alaska Dixieland Band and the Tahoma School District Faculty Concerts.

I current am a member of the Highline Community Symphonic Band, the Maple Valley Big Band, and I play in a Trombone Choir with current and past MMR Campers. I am an active Music Educator at Jenkins Creek Elementary School and I have 34 years of experience in Music Education.



MIDSUMMER MUSICAL RETREAT

Midwinter/Midsummer Musical Retreat Society
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 Seattle, WA 98125

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registration email: registrar@musicalretreat.org



Corporate address:

Midsummer Musical Retreat
 12345 Lake City Way NE, PMB 2255
 Seattle, WA 98125

Registration address:

MMR c/o Jessica Dowell, Registrar
 13600 SW Wrightwood Ct.
 Tigard, OR 97224

www.musicalretreat.org



Midsummer Musical Retreat is a non-profit organization and operates on income generated by fees and by donations from our supporters.

I'd like to make a donation to MMR

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Donations to MMR, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, are tax deductible.

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