



Key - Notes

A Newsletter for the members and friends of Celestia Performing Arts Association

Key Events

Upcoming Events

Concert in the Park

July 25, 2004

C.A.R.O.L. Heart Walk

September 12, 2004

Lower Gwynedd

Country Fair Day

October 2, 2004

Holiday Celebration Concert

December 3,4,& 5

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See our website for
additional details

www.celestia-arts.org

Key Visions from our Chairman: Sprinter or Marathoner!

Sprint or marathon?

While comparing training for a physical activity like running and creating a performing arts group may seem like quite a stretch, I believe there are some similarities. Let's do a quick comparison of two types of running; the sprint and the marathon.

The first obvious comparison is the length of time for each activity. A sprint is done and over with in seconds. The marathon takes an hour or more (eight hours or more for me since they'd have to revive me two or three times along the way). Next we have the type of energy required. The sprint demands an immediate, high-impact burst of energy. The marathon requires a lower-impact, sustained energy level. What about the excitement level it attracts? Well, a sprint is very flashy and can capture the attention of many for the brief span of time it takes to complete. The marathon on the other hand, while considered by most to be rather boring, draws the attention of many for a much longer period of time. The activity for the runner can also be compared. The sprinter's activity in a single event is short-lived;

again, over in a matter of seconds. The marathoner's single event activity, due to the sheer distance involved, is ongoing and consistent. Alright, I think that is enough comparisons. The question on your mind may be, 'What has this got to do with creating a performing arts group?'

Well, it is my humble opinion that when a group of people decide that a performing arts group is needed in the community, the question that needs to be asked is do you design it to be a sprinter or a marathoner? Do you want the group to be around for a while or just a quick, flash in the pan group that no one will ever really see? Do you want the group to be able to sustain the energy level needed to support a lengthy operation or just burn brightly for a short time and burn out soon after?

Do you want a lot of people to see your group for brief, flashy, yet short-lived moments, or do you want a lot of people to watch your group over the long haul at various stages in its "race"? Do you want your group to be active for a little bit of time and then be done, or do you want the activity level to be

ongoing? These are the questions that the founders of **Celestia**, as well as the early members, needed to answer.

Let's review what, in my opinion having been one of the original performing and Board members, the answers were. First, **Celestia** was definitely not set up to be a flash in the pan. The founders felt a need for a performing arts group in the community and set out to implant one that would be around for a long time.

Second it was the founders' intention to see to it that the energy level be sustainable and meet the demands that a long-term operation would require. Also, **Celestia** was intended to be seen by many people, in many different venues, at various times in the organization's development. Finally, I believe it was **Celestia's** founders' intent to get active, be active, and remain active for a long, long time.

(cont'd page 2)

Key Events: Past and Future

The second quarter was another busy time for **Celestia**.

The "Spring Gala" held by St. Catherine of Siena had "Moonlight" from **Celestia** performing with melodies of the mid to late 1900's. Over 350 people were in attendance.

Celestia opened for Peggy Fleming during her visit to Hatboro Horsham High School, sponsored by HHEF

Our **Spring Concert**, The Sounds of Screen and Stage was held at Simmons Elementary on June 18 & 19.

June 26th saw us at the Keystone Hospice for their June fest fund raiser, a community festival and flea market that serves to raise funds for their operating fund.

As we enter the 3rd & 4th quarters we have many events planned.

Our first event was to participate in the opening ceremonies for the YMCA sponsored National Gymnastics Competition.

Next on our agenda is the Horsham "Concert in the Park" slated for the 24th of July.

On September 12th we will be walking for the C.A.R.O.L. event at Carpenter Park in Horsham. More information regarding this worthy cause can be found at: www.Carolforheart.com

On Oct 2nd Celestia will be featured at the Lower Gwynedd Country Fair Day. Join us for great fun, music and friends.

Celestia will participate in the Dedication and Grand Opening of Hor-

sham Township's Library on November 5th.

Holiday events include a **Christmas Concert** on Dec 3rd, 4th & 5th at Village Players in Hatboro. We will be providing more information on this event in our next newsletter. Visit our website at www.celestia-arts.org



Kathie Hart, Mary Brown,
Susan Mc Caffery, Barb Millar,
& Nancy Kramer

Key Committees: Grants Committee

Celestia Performing Arts has been funded since its inception in 2000 by donations from individuals and by sponsorship of our larger public events by companies both small and large. In addition, each member of our Board of Directors has committed to making an annual financial donation along with the commitment of her or his time and talents. With the funds these sources have and continue to provide, **Celestia** has grown from just a concept to a 70-person strong organization.

In order to continue providing an outlet for the creative talents of our young adult and adult members, benefit performances that support many worthy causes, and high-quality entertainment for the communities we serve, we need to attract further funding.

The Board created our Grants Committee and charged it with developing relationships with funding organizations and individuals, and to participate in their grant programs.

Funding companies and foundations each have one or more themes for their funding activities. The Grants Committee tries to locate those groups funding the types of activities that **Celestia** provides or plans to provide.

Celestia's plans for the long haul include the acquisition of a performance hall and the funding to support such a facility. In the nearer term, we've been acquiring high-quality equipment such as music stands, instruments, and a transportable sound system so that we can provide high-quality perform-

ances and reduce our operating costs, much of which is the rental of this equipment for our events and performances.

One current need is for \$5,000 to purchase a set of transportable risers so that our choral group can perform at venues where these are not available.

If you know of grants that **Celestia** should pursue, or want to help out the Grants Committee in any way, please contact Chuck Fitzpatrick at (215) 957-5365 or chuck.fitzpatrick@celestia-arts.org.

Article contributed by
Chuck Fitzpatrick

Sprinter or Marathoner! continued from page 1

With these being the answers, I believe the founders and early members of **Celestia** set out to create a performing arts group that was certainly a marathoner; one that was in it for the long haul, had the sustained energy to compete and stay active, and be seen by many. Were they successful?

Well, just as someone who does not know how to run a marathon may not know how to train for one, some learning is needed and the runner may not have the right program in place from the outset. The early days of **Celestia** certainly started out more like a training camp for a sprinter. From the small choral group singing holiday songs at a local shop, to the original Board of Directors developing by-laws and a strategic business plan, to a packed high school auditorium for a debut stage show, the flurry of activity and energy level being expended certainly would have looked more like someone training for a 40-yard dash than a 26 mile jog. However, that is what happens when a group of enthusiastic people with common beliefs gets together to move a project forward.

So what does a want-to-be-marathoner do when they are apparently on course to be a sprinter based on their self-designed training program? They get a trainer. **Celestia**, through the involvement of non-profit guidance services like the LaSalle Non-profit Center and the influx

of new members with varied backgrounds learns that in order to be a marathoner, you have to be consistent over the long term; quite a contrast to the short-term buzz that had been occurring. To some, both within the organization and outside, this change of gears could be perceived as a lack of enthusiasm and perhaps stagnation. On the contrary, I believe it was a correction of actions that was better suited to meet the original intention of being a 'marathon' group and not a 'sprinter'. The change in training programs does not mean the challenges, aches, and pains of running do not exist. As an organization, **Celestia** has experienced the aches and pains of growth and development.

The group has also faced, and will face again, several challenges as it stretches to endure the long, grueling road it set out to conquer. No endeavor, whether individually or cooperatively undertaken, has ever been truly successful without experiencing the struggles thrown at it along the way. The true test is to come through the training program from day to day being able to do just a little more than you did the day before. Reflecting on the past several years of **Celestia's** development, I can honestly state that this organization has passed that test.

So what does the future hold? It is chock full of opportunities to go one more mile and achieve a little

more every time out. The future is also full of roadblocks that will test the metal of the group and try to break its stride just enough to make the group stumble, and perhaps fall.

As a 'marathoner', however, the stumbling blocks, scrapes, and falls are all part of the training program. **Celestia**, designed with the intent to be a 'marathon' organization, knows that it will get up from every fall and find the strength to continue on, become stronger, and eventually run every race with confidence and success in mind.

The challenge to all of us, performing members, Board of Directors, and supporters is to see to it that, as a whole, the drive and determination required to see **Celestia** through each and every level of training is not left at the starting block. This requires clearly defined goals, a training plan to meet those goals, and the energy and commitment level to adhere to that plan.

We are all part of the training staff for this 'runner', **Celestia**. Not only is it our role to play our part in the training and development in whatever forms that may take, it is also our responsibility to believe that our 'athlete' can not only compete, but win!

Article contributed by Mike Reider

Key Players: Altos

As an old adage reflects, "a strong foundation is the basis for a strong house". No where is that more true than in the Alto section of our talented choral group. The ability to blend effectively, support the higher voices with well executed harmonies, and work together to reinforce each other are the **Key** features of a strong and talented section.

Members of this group 'lovingly' refer to their counterparts in the soprano section as "boisterous" and they contend that they are 'lucky', since most of the time they carry the melody line of many pieces. It is not easy to avoid the temptation to sing melody in many well known songs, but it is a challenge that is consistently and expertly met by this group.

Many of the members of the alto section have sung together since the inception of **Celestia** and as a result have learned to identify each other's strengths and weaknesses. Members of this section pride themselves in their ability to blend as one voice.

We're extremely fortunate to have a solid alto section. Thanks to each one that gives so much of their time and talent.

Article contributed by Doreen Kelly and Jill Reider

Celestia is always looking to expand our membership with individuals that enjoy life, like to have fun and have a desire to sing, play an instrument or support the group in other ways. Join us and learn to have fun with great people!!!!

Celestia Performing Arts Association

Our Mission is to provide a high quality forum for the arts, supported by educational and practical experiences. We will also cultivate the arts and we invite the community to enjoy local presentations. We will ensure that the talent and support garnered from the community is returned in kind through our activities and performances.

Our Values are based upon Nurturing, Community, Professionalism, Education, Respect and Creativity.

Want to know how you can help Celestia reach its goals and full potential? There are many ways for you to help! Donations have been “Key” to our success, but you can help without an “out-of-pocket” expense! Apply today for escrip on line and designate Celestia as your recipient in the Community Cash Back Program. Our number is 152174404 Go to escrip today and sign-up for Celestia!!!!

Visit www.escrip.com NOW!

“Key-Needs”

[Toner Cartridges for recycling](#)

[Risers for choral performances](#)

[Covered trailer \(6 or 8 foot\)](#)

[Access to a van for transporting equipment](#)

[Event sponsors ask your employer!](#)



Celestia Performing Arts Association

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We're on the Web!

www.celestia-arts.org