

SHIR DELIGHT

The Not-to-be-taken Seriously Newsletter

Applause for Marsha

And another season drew to a close as the choir recognized those who had helped them succeed. Kudos to Shirah's esteemed conductor, Marsha Edelman. The choir was well rehearsed and ready to go. Texts mastered and notes found. How good it was to be together!

Manager Marilyn

What doesn't she know!! Want the codes for the door? Need to Skype rehearsal? Want to hear the tenor part? Ran out of tickets? Need a nosh before the concert? You know who does it all.

Marvin

He really did start at the very beginning! And he even looks the same, sounds the same. Though this editor doesn't really know not having been there at the beginning. As a nonagenarian (does not mean of no age) he is quite impressive.



Let's Start at the Very Beginning

Marsha: Stop stop stop. Go back to the E flat section.

3 people find it. Someone asks: what measure is that?

Marsha: I don't have measure numbers. It's where the sopranos start.

3 people find it: Someone asks: do you want the pickup too?

Marsha: Not that soprano entrance. The one where the fugue starts.

3 people find it: Someone asks: what's a fugue?

Someone in the back: Let's start at the very beginning





The Mavens

You know them They sit next to you.

the shushing maven

the wrong note maven

the Yiddish maven

the text maven

the Bible maven

the "we are confused" maven

the measure number maven

the greeting card maven

the historian maven

the gift maven

the markings maven

the "Mati used to" maven

the "we sang that 50 years ago" maven

the Skype maven

the "always knows where we are" maven

the flower maven

No One Knows the Difference

As the music critic of this august publication I abhor hearing the above. If it's a NY Philharmonic concert it must be assumed that the crowd *can* tell the difference. But, what an insult to an audience to declare that it can't tell right from wrong! Aren't they more discerning than the mistake-makers think?

After a concert I attended in my job as official reviewer I walked around listening to various conversations. I came across 4 young women and I asked them if they had enjoyed the concert. Indeed they had. Their mother was in the choir. It made the experience more personal. I asked them if they had noticed any musical mishaps. They had not. It was then that someone tapped me on the shoulder and said, "I'm in the choir and I didn't notice any mistakes."

I have spent many sleepless nights thinking about this. Perhaps my ears are sensitive as hardly a mistake passes by without me cringing. I suppose that a choir member who doesn't notice a mistake is to be admired for focusing so hard on his own part.





Dear Dr. Plotsky,

I've been in Shirah for 2 years and have really loved it. I think I'm an asset! I may not be the best singer and sometimes I have trouble putting *sh* at the end of the measure. I don't squeak on high notes because I don't sing them. I even know the other sections' music and I love singing any one of them at any given time. I come on time, usually, unless there's a traffic tie up in Tenafly. I always have a pencil or at least an eye liner to write stuff down.

Recently, I have become aware of a mysterious group called "The Back Row". Who are these people? There is a back row and some people sit there often but there's always other people coming and going. I tried sitting in the back row to see if that gives you automatic membership but Marsha made me move to the front so I never got to test it out. Maybe it's like those societies they have at Ivy League schools. Is there pledge week? Are there initiations? It's bad enough I never recovered from not getting into Harvard but no one's invited me to pledge The Back Row.

Feeling scorned



Dear Feeling Scorned,

Your letter clears up a mystery that has been on my mind for the past few weeks and enables me to answer another letter received from several people who often sit in the back row during rehearsals. I will quote a brief excerpt from that letter:

"Dear Dr. P... A few of us are perplexed by the behavior of a new member of Shirah, who seems obsessed with us, and we don't know why. She stares at us, and shifts uncomfortably in her seat, which is very distracting. Sometimes, especially when we come in late and have to sit in the back row so that Marsha won't give us that "look", this person seems even more focused on us, obviously perplexed and upset, so much so that I try not to sit there unless I have to. The others also try to sit in other rows, but sometimes the back row is the only place left. Occasionally the new singer sits there, too, but, as bizarre as it sounds, she has a sort of imploring look on her face, like someone waiting for an invitation to a secret society or some crazy thing like that. So we requested that Marsha ask her to sit up front so we can concentrate on singing..."

Regarding Harvard, have you thought of re-applying, as soon as possible?

—Dr. Plotznik

P.S My name is not Plotsky!

Those Special Moments

Who's got the tune-the dwarfs?



Did we or did we not mangle?



Wavraham

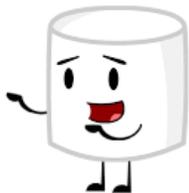
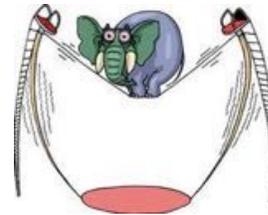
If you get there before me you didn't win.

You don't get paid by the beat

The way you get off a note is very simple.

Stop singing!

This sounds a slide.like an elephant
going down



This sounds like it's in
marshmallow.



Flutist, tuning: Are you really giving me an A?

Mati: Oh, sorry

Glenn: Mati (about Marvin)-do you want me to follow him or you?



Phyllis: If I didn't write it Mati didn't teach it!

Don't think you can relax just because you have a tie.

You are 2 beats behind me but what's really bothering me is that you didn't notice!

Hilary: Oh, I didn't realize we had started.



Guys, you've only one measure; you shouldn't need a breath

If you breathe at the end of 'tov' you're dead meat.

No!!! Do not breathe!

Sopranos, mark this day on your calendar.



Some things that Marsha may have said to the sopranos



You're sopranos. You're supposed to like it up there.

Sopranos screech excitedly

Sopranos-feh

If you get there before me you didn't win!

That was an inadvertent decrescendo-half the sopranos dropped out

It's not written mezzo scared



Is Brunhilde in the soprano section?

If you can't sing without squeaking, don't. If you're singing anyway please sing it early.



don't