



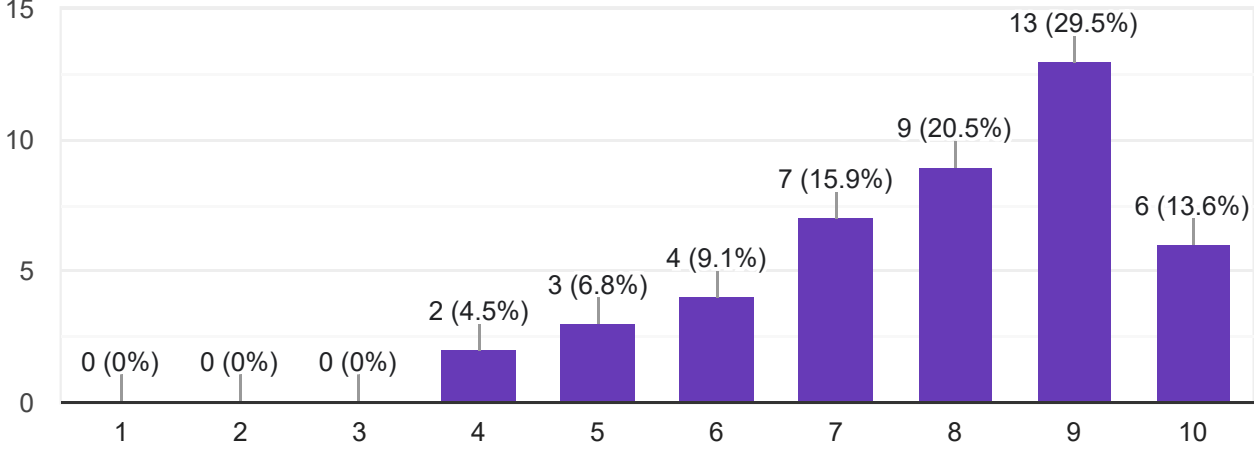
Give us your feedback on Megan Henderson

44 responses

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On a scale of 1-10 (ten being the best), how did you enjoy Megan's leading of the Chorale? Please reflect on her style, teaching, energy, conducting, etc., rather than whether you liked the song or not. 44 responses

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What did you especially like about working with Megan? 40 responses

- Great energy, sense of humor, understands musical forms
- She was good at explaining the particular style of song and made the song style less mysterious.
- She was very precise with a difficult song.
- She seemed sincere and musically knowledgeable.
- Great energy
- She was very warm and encouraging. She knew her song very well.
- Her energy, support and her flexibility when our music and hers did not match
- She was positive and clear in her instructions.
- She seemed humble and honest.
- Great energy, clearly knows her stuff
- Her energy and attention to detail.
- Her teaching skills were excellent, gentle, fun, and productive AND we sang a very complicated song after a short period of time with a totally new person directing (with Nick vocally present, very close to her and stepping in when she was working clarifying the musical phrase with the altos.)
- Her pleasant manner and clear instructions
- Her energy
- She seems lively and competent. I enjoyed her energy. Also, she projected well, so I could hear her clearly.
- Her vitality
- She has a pleasant demeanor and gave clear instructions.
- She was energetic, she knew this unique type of singing and could teach it with confidence
- her energy
- positive, upbeat, I like that she figured out problem with the alto part and corrected it
- Her knowledge of shapenote singing.
- Her energy, positivity, humor; clarity and skill.
- Energy, teaching style
- Her professional attitude
- Her energy as well as her ability to adapt to not having the right version of New Jerusalem. We did end up singing a decent rendition of the song.

Her enthusiasm &

Not too much. She seemed very nervous. I didn't learn much or improve the piece we sang.

Knowledge of material, fast pace, attention to detail

Positive energy

her enthusiasm

She was nice, & clearly understood about shape note singing.

She was knowledgeable and friendly.

Her energy and enthusiasm. She seemed to adapt quickly to the constraints of leading without having the familiarity of the setting

She had a nice energy

Warm, clear communication, flexibility/ learning how to work with us

Her enthusiasm

She had an especially difficult song to lead and did it well. She didn't get flustered and she was very organized as she worked through the piece. I was on the live stream and was able to follow her.

She seems humble and kind. She tried to answer questions in the limited time she had with the choir

her confidence, upbeat, great spirit and voice, knowledge about shape note singing

Her accuracy/ knowledge. Shapenote seems quite specialized.

Was there anything about Megan that didn't work as well for you? 31 responses

No

It seemed there were variations in the music sheets.

I did not feel as connected with her as I do with Nick.

I would have liked the demonstration to be more focused.

Maybe I was as prepared as I should have but I felt that she went really fast teaching the song.

She could have explained the mismatch of words not being under the correct notes a little more clearly. Maybe

Nick can rewrite those measures to clear up the confusion of those who did not "grok" the change.

Megan seemed underprepared and nervous.

Too confusing to follow

Hard song to teach us!

Her being masked made it difficult to see her warm smile and to hear her direct yet non condescending voice.

She needed to repeat section parts more. I felt we always needed one more before she went on to the next part.

She needed a microphone and a copy of the song the same as what we had.

I think there were two missteps, though they may not have been her fault. As an expert on shape notes, she might have shared a quick overview. Also, she was working from a different score than the singers.

She assumed that we knew certain musical terms like "system."

no

She did not come across as being prepared.

Not really

Nothing

Nothing

She didn't repeat our voice part before asking us to sing it again, correctly. I didn't feel we improved with the 2nd or 3rd repetition of same section.

Needed to check that she had same version of piece we were given

I was disappointed she wasn't given the same music as the choral had. It was frustrating for her and us.

I found it hard to follow her directions

She seemed overwhelmed by the size & wanted too much to please as opposed to taking control. Although it wasn't fair to her that she had a different version of the music than we did.

Megan asked the chorus several times "should we sing that again?". Being more direct and just directing it again if it does not sound good is a better style of directing for Mystic folks. :o) It felt like she was asking for permission. Is her personality strong enough for the Mystic culture?

I thought she was great for the piece that she did with us.

she didn't have the same music as we did.. our fault. she got a bit lost in helping sections and individuals- I'd like to see her when she was working with the same music as we.

She wasn't Nick! Not jokey, but to the point

Anything else you'd like to add?26 responses

I liked her style: relaxed and comfortable, but clearly task-oriented.

I liked her ability to teach, but I didn't feel the degree of energy and inspiration I do with Nick or Donnell, or with the previous guest. She's a good teacher, but very down to business.

I liked her, but for some unknown reason, I don't think she's the right fit for MC

I have noticed that the Mystic members feel free to offer suggestions on a variety of subjects. I wish that the new director can handle suggestions and move past them if they have a goal on their mind.

I enjoyed her leading.

Megan was lacking the spark of a motivated director.

I'd like to see her in action again, perhaps with another song or doing a workshop.

It is difficult for any person to step in for one song in the middle of Nick's rehearsal and to come close to his presence and leadership. Donnell can do this but I did not feel as if Megan did. I like the fact that there are women in the running for the Mystic leadership, however.

Delighted to work with Megan!

I would like to invite her back with a more energetic lively song. The Shape shifters song was unusual and showed how great a teacher she is- even with different music in hand than what we had- she showed a calm, gentle nondefensive style to bring clarity to the teaching and it worked. - we sang the song in 4 parts within 30 minutes or so!

I liked her a lot.

I'm not sure she had a fair shake at tryouts

Nick's shoes will be tough to fill. There are many competent musical directors, but it's Nick's unique personality and sense of humor that I feel contributes to making the Mystic Chorale special. I realize you understand this, and I appreciate the hard work you are all doing in including us in the search.

The song was really a disaster for altos.

I would have liked to experience her doing warmups; that tells a lot about a conductor's style.

It's hard to know what she would be like conducting music other than shape note

I thought it was great.

She would be a good guest conductor, if not our next regular director.

Her explanation of shape singing did not really satisfy me as to what made it unique. Too bad she did not have the same music sheet that we did. More confusing therefore.

I didn't like that Nick interrupted to tell her what to do, even when she was struggling a bit. She may have shown how she could or could not handle that. I wish he would totally sit back & let us see how they do on their own. I like seeing these snippets but I hope this is not how a director for the spring season will be chosen. It would be nice to see several candidates for the full season to truly get a feel for them. Maybe each candidate under consideration could lead about 3 rehearsals and completely (without another director like Nick looking over their shoulder), and teach about 3 entire songs. Then they could each lead those songs at the concert. That could give everyone the chance to get a real sense of how they teach, lead, select music, & collaborate with others with different directors working together at the concert.

Because Megan had a different arrangement of the song, it made it a bit more difficult to get a sense of her leadership style. It was a good thing that she pointed out that her arrangement was different and she taught what she knew.

I liked her personality. She seemed spunky and energetic and creative. I am one who appreciates Nick's quirkiness. The previous guest conductor was too bland.

Loved how Nick appreciated her version of a portion of the song.

Hard to know about all the other features of what we're looking for in a director...

I would like to see her again, leading more songs and songs that are not so challenging

Too few questions to get a sense maybe? But thanks for putting this out- it's a help—

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