

# Intergenerational Dynamics Handout

## Instructions

- ✓ Identify the issue/s surrounding equity, access and belonging in each scenario.
- ✓ Reflect on how this situation may, or may not, be relevant or present in your own chorus.
- ✓ Brainstorm a range of possible responses to the scenario.
- ✓ Determine who in your chorus is responsible to speak up, challenge, or support the issue presented?
- ✓ Record your conversations and responses for reporting back to the larger group.

## Scenarios for Discussion

1. Karen just snagged a new entry-level finance job and lives in an apartment downtown. She doesn't own her own car and uses the city's public transportation. The chair of the chorus finance committee has asked her to join the monthly evening committee meeting in a suburban neighborhood with free parking.
2. A long-time singing elder in the Bemiji Gay Men's Chorus passed away from Covid-19 and the social committee decides to hold a Zoom memorial that weekend to allow a space for members to share stories and grieve his passing. Because the time was short they announced the event on the Chorus Facebook page and Instagram account.
3. Hanh has been a member of the chorus for almost twenty years. His chorus family means the world to him. One evening before rehearsal, Hanh greets Michael with a friendly squeeze on the shoulders. After rehearsal, Michael tells the director that Hanh's touch made him feel uncomfortable.
4. Caitlin lives with her two partners, Raven and Jamal. The choir is planning a beach retreat and plans to rent houses. The membership chair, a married woman in her sixties, encourages singers to invite their spouses to the retreat, promising there are more than enough queen-sized beds to accommodate all the couples.
5. The Buena Vista Queer Chorus is performing a commission commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. Some of the older members of the chorus organize a story-telling evening to share their own history of coming out during the 1960s. As it turns out, the storytelling falls on the same evening as the 21st birthday party for a bass in the chorus. At the story-telling event, the conversation focuses on chorus elders feeling like their history and experience paving the way for queer rights is not respected or honored.
6. Dominique sings tenor in their local GALA chorus. They are very fashionable and love to wear the latest trends, enjoying both men's and women's styles. Dominique's section leader Jim has worked as an HIV prevention specialist for 30 years. One day, Dominique overhears Jim telling a singer: "I don't understand, why doesn't he just pick a side? We'd love him regardless of either gender."
7. Aarav recently joined a local GALA chorus. He is still a senior in high school, but he is 18 years old. The other singers in the tenor section find him charming and have taken to calling him "sexy man" as a sign of affection. Aarav laughs and thinks this is hilarious.

## Action Steps

What are some concrete steps your chorus could undertake to better address intergenerational dynamics?

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