



## **Recommendation for Kathy Eckles**

Winter 2011

The Mystic Chorale is a non-profit, volunteer run organization of approximately 1200 people established in 1990. Nearly 700 of our members sing each year in any of three major concerts, and in community outreach and travel programs.

We have had the privilege of working with Kathy Eckles for three years. She has facilitated Leadership, Board and Membership retreats and meetings with professional, insightful guidance. She understands our organization and our mission, and has been instrumental in helping us learn, grow and interact as a community.

The Mystic Chorale now demonstrates its mission of 'healing and compassion through singing' internally as well as externally. Our Leadership and Board members now work as a cohesive team. Our Board now identifies clear, simple goals that emerge from the needs and interests of our community; and those goals interface effectively with committee goals and community-established activities to achieve those goals. Our number of volunteers has significantly increased in the past three years. Our systems support our mission and we are continually working to improve them. We now accomplish more with greater ease and more fun.

Kathy has helped us accomplish all of this. She has helped us develop balanced, effective leadership, along with streamlined systems that encourage and increase member volunteer participation. She has helped Board members integrate personal interests and talents with all the work the Chorale needs to accomplish. She has challenged us to change, to think creatively, and to act collaboratively.

Kathy has an excellent, innate sense of group dynamics. She is organized and efficient, while also knowing when and how to facilitate free-form conversation. She's fun and speaks straight from the heart with an open mind, interacting in a way that models respect and appreciation for everyone. Kathy has helped us to more deeply understand and experience the power of truly caring for one another, and of working together for something greater than ourselves.

It has been our profound pleasure to work with Kathy.

Sincerely,

*Olivia Tappan*

**President, Mystic Chorale Board of Directors –Arlington, MA**