

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras (MASO) is to encourage, promote, and assist in the maintenance and development of musical programs of quality throughout the state of Montana.

Next meetings: **Tuesday**, May 19, 2009, in Helena; Wednesday, September 23, TBA.

Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras Board Meeting

January 16, 2009

Wingate Inn, Bridger Room, Bozeman, Montana

Minutes

President Peter Bogy called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM.

Also in attendance:

Billings Symphony: Sandi Culhane, Anne Harrigan, Candy Holzer, Jody Ballou, Barbara Griffin;

Bozeman Symphony: Bridget Garnsey, Matthew Savery;

Great Falls Symphony: Carolyn Valacich, Marty Cowgill, Gordon Johnson, Bill Larson, Lorrin Darby;

Glacier Symphony: Alan Satterlee, John Zoltek;

Helena Symphony: Allan R. Scott, Tawna Parisot, Leatrice Lily;

Butte Symphony: Mark Hayden, Karen Porter;

Missoula Symphony: Darko Butorac, Anne Guest;

John C. Barsness: MASO staff.

Public comment

Since there were no members of the public present, there was no public comment period.

Minutes of previous meeting

Motion from Bill, Karen second, to accept minutes of the September meeting as distributed; unanimous agreement.

November financial statement

Alan reviewed the statement and noted current CD investment yields are in the 1-2% range and will check with DA Davidson as their American Cash management fund was paying over 3%. (Subsequent inquiry showed that fund is now about 2%, so it was decided to leave the quarterly rolling \$15,000 CD investment schedule to remain in place). For general information: due to delivery times of bank statements and treasurer's review, MASO's financial statements usually reflect the period ending two months prior to the meeting date.

Peter described the change in MASO's budget process for FY2010. If there were no objections to adding language to the by-laws establishing a budget committee, he asked for volunteers: Marty, Alan, Bill, Peter, and John B. Anyone else interested in serving on

the budget committee should contact Alan. John B. and Peter will have a preparatory meeting in Bozeman on March 5; the full Finance Committee will meet in Great Falls, location to be determined, on March 10; John B. will coordinate.

Volunteer Award announcement

Marty announced she and Karen came to agreement on this year's winner: Donald R. Fredrikson, Helena Symphony.

Young Artist Competition

Competition coordinator Allan R. Scott distributed envelopes with all the relevant documents to date and described the competition process:

- There were 41 applicants total
- It was a totally anonymous process. Initial screeners did not know who the applicant was and judges at the competition will not know the performer's home city. In all, the competition will certainly be perceived as being fair.
- There will be a certificate of participation for each performer; there will be an additional certificate for each winner, as well as a medal.
- There are more diverse instruments this year, including harp and marimba.

There will also be a dinner for the judges on Friday so they can meet each other.

Matthew added that MASO guarantees each winner one solo performance with one Montana orchestra. Often there are multiple performances, but Music Directors can invite anyone, therefore there must be some leeway in the process.

Congratulations to the winners should be posted on the MASO Web site. Helena Symphony send Music Directors participant contact information and create a press release. Bozeman Symphony called the local newspaper, but found they were short-handed and would not cover the event as they had two years ago.

Preview of spring fundraising session

Alan gave a glimpse of his fundraising presentation. Prior to the spring meeting he would like an interactive 1-2 hour teleconference with the other Executive Directors to fully prepare for his session.

Lunch and breakout sessions:

Executive Directors met in the Big Horn Room

Music Directors met in the breakfast area

Volunteers stayed in the Bridger Room

Orchestra reports

Glacier: Season ticket sales are down 15%, which may be due to competition with Amadeus and/or the state of the economy. However, corporate contributions are up. \$1.7 million has been pledged over five years, even so the orchestra is being frugal on advertising and cutting back on guest artists.

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Missoula and Butte: see attached.

New Business: Breakout session reports

Executive Directors asked to distribute \$1,250 for a joint full-page advertisement in the 2009 *Montana's Cultural Treasures* publication. Montana Arts Council, Department of Commerce, and Lee Enterprises print the booklet to promote Montana's cultural attractions to tourists. The book is placed in hotel rooms, which is the hardest place for a local symphony to advertise, but is too expensive for individual orchestras to purchase an ad. Motion by Alan, Sandi second, to authorize expenditure of \$1,250 and purchase a full-page ad in *Montana's Cultural Treasures* containing each orchestra member's logo and Web address. Friendly amendment by Peter, Lorrin second, to approve the expenditure above the current budget. Motion as amended passed unanimously. Music Directors discussed the current budget of \$3,000 to purchase titles, method of procurement, and guest artists. Matthew is coordinating this year's purchase. Sandi asked if MASO's titles were insured; Gordon answered yes. Volunteers did not have a report this time.

Meeting Schedule

Spring and fall meetings will be **Tuesday**, May 19, in Helena and Wednesday, September 23, location TBA.

MASO By-laws

The committee charged with updating the by-laws met by telephone earlier in the month and then in person this morning.

1. As the by-laws now stand, board membership consists of the Executive Director as *ex officio* and three others for each full-member orchestra. With so many non-resident Music Directors in 1995, the board dropped Music Director as an *ex-officio* member. The committee would like to include each orchestra's Music Director with its with Executive Director as *ex officio*, or a designee, plus two members to complete a contingent of four. The idea is to have the orchestra staff plus members of the community. This change was accepted by consensus.

2. There are currently two classes of membership: active and affiliate. The conversations with Billings Youth orchestra point out that a youth orchestra does not fit either category well. Consequently, the committee recommended creating a third category for associate membership. This category would allow representatives to attend meetings, participate in training and communication, but would not allow borrowing scores from the library or participating in educational outreach funding. This change would also include neighbor state orchestras. Discussion ensued on a number of topics, including legal review of the language, costs involved with music loans: for example, there are costs involved with music loans; what we have now is a fair trade, but that would not be the case with a small orchestra: what benefits are there to adding a new orchestra collection--what we have now pretty well covers the standard repertoire--so why add new or out-of-state orchestras? Consensus was to refer to LAO language in the definition of youth and professional orchestras."

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There will be another committee conference call after January 31 to further discuss proposed changes, including further refinement of affiliate and associate levels, which will be presented at the May MASO meeting.

Continuing Education

As previously noted in a member e-mail, ticketing systems is not so much of an issue as previously thought, so it will be pursued by Executive Directors via e-mail; time instead was given to orchestra reports and by-law discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Barsness, Executive Director