

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

**Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
C'Mon Inn, Bozeman, Montana  
September 18, 2008

**Minutes**

As suggested in June this month's meeting was held in conjunction with Thursday's League of American Orchestras Volunteer Council workshop at the same location.

**The next meeting will be Friday, January 16, 2009, in Bozeman.**

At 8:35 AM Vice President Peter Bogy, in the absence of President Bill Larson, called the meeting to order. He introduced new attendees: Mary Maclean, Interim Executive Director, Bozeman; Mark Hayden, Executive Director, Butte; Lawrence Nelson, Executive Director, Helena; David Sabado, President, Butte; Lorrin Darby, President, Great Falls; and Betsy Hackamn, Board member, Glacier. He also noted there were no members of the public, outside the State Agency director who could comment at any time, so there would be no need for a public comment period. Also present: Karen Porter, Darko Butorac, John Driscoll, Matthew Savery, Tawna Parisot, Allan R. Scott, Marty Cowgill, Carolyn Valacich, Sandi Culhane, David Hummel; Arni Fishbaugh, Montana Arts Council, and John C. Barsness, MASO staff.

**Election of officers**

Election Slate: MASO Officers 9/2008 – 9/2010

President	Peter Bogy, Helena
Vice president	Marty Cowgill, Great Falls
Secretary	Sandra Culhane, Billings
Treasurer	Alan Satterlee, Glacier

Motion from Karen, Matthew second, to accept the slate; vote was unanimous in favor and officers changed when the motion passed.

**LAO/VC workshop evaluation**

Observations:

- 1.) The workshop was unable to answer a question on starting a new volunteer league and stayed with the prepared script about previously existing leagues.
- 2.) KC's mentor system is fine if what the orchestra wants is generic information and not in-depth.
- 3.) We have enough brain power present in the room to come up with our own solutions so is the mentor system worth pursuing?
- 4.) The Volunteer Council session is based on an old model, which hundreds still follow, so mentors need to be chosen carefully.

5.) There was an apparent disconnect between MASO members and the Volunteer League speakers; the greatest benefit of the session was the opportunity to network with peers on the issues raised. Carolyn suggested John B. and Peter formulate a thank you letter to LAO's Volunteer Council. Arni noted some upcoming MAC institutes, information on their Web site, that deal with attendance and marketing; previous attendees all rated them as meeting or exceeding MASO expectations. There will also be some PODcasts and free software listed, so just look under "marketing leadership"

### **MASO By-laws**

Copies of the By-laws last updated in 2005 were distributed and a committee formed to review/update them:

- 1 Music Director – Gordon
- 1 Executive Director – Alan
- 1 Board member – Peter
- 1 advisor—John B.

Matthew pointed out Wyoming has two orchestras without a similar statewide support structure. Carolyn responded that they could be affiliate members if they wanted to join now.

It was agreed to put two membership items on the agenda for consideration in January:

- 1.) Youth Orchestras
- 2.) Wyoming Orchestras

Committee will recommend any changes, particularly regarding youth and out-of state orchestras, at the January meeting.

### **Youth Orchestra membership question**

John B. asked for guidance on how to respond should a youth orchestra inquire about membership before January. There was no active application pending, but he wanted to know the sense of the board in order to respond correctly should the question arise. The answer was to recommend the youth orchestra apply in writing to become an affiliate member, with the understanding that affiliate membership is restricted on music loans, and that any application would be discussed at the January meeting.

### **Minutes and financial statement**

Motion came from John D., Karen second, to approve minutes of the June meeting with financial statement moved to the next meeting; unanimous approval.

### **Volunteer Award**

Nominations for the Volunteer Award will be accepted through October 15 with winner announced at the January meeting.

### **Young Artist Competition**

Allan provided an update: a color version of the application materials are posted on the Helena Symphony Web site and will be posted on the MASO Web site. The competition is Saturday,

MASO Minutes, September 18, 2008—page 3

January 17, 2009, and full-page advertisements purchased in *Cadenza* magazine's April and September issues. Orchestras: please send local private music teacher association lists to Allan for follow-up mailing as some do not subscribe to *Cadenza*. Gordon will promote college contacts for mailing.

### **Meeting format for 2009**

It was agreed that what works is the orchestra reports. The challenge is how to relate that excitement and link them to break-out sessions and take enough time to talk about what was in the reports. Carolyn observed we sometimes spend too much time on details, not on the big picture, but that is where the interest is. Sandi would like the opportunity for an hour in the morning to react to and get the most out of the reports. David noted the previous meeting spent too much time dissecting the budget; perhaps that could be delegated to a committee to do ahead of time and present the result at the board meeting. A by-law change would be necessary to create a financial committee. It was agreed an hour will be taken for future orchestra reports. (MASO meeting content should grow and change with the organization's needs, so the format is not set in stone; consequently, meetings in 2008 are very different from what they were a decade ago. The board exercises its fiduciary responsibility by adopting a budget once a year, as well as in its examination of financial reports in the interim. JB)

Further discussion centered on "what is the goal, what is to be gained?" The answer to that is education and sharing, and there are at least 5-6 different philosophies on what that answer means. Sharing appears to include discussion of how each orchestra deals with its challenges. For example, how to balance marketing, budget, audience education/development? How does the local board address community need with a non-resident Music Director? How best can the Music Director's time be used? What are the boundaries?—feedback and direction are needed. Arni suggested looking at the Public Value Partnership report information and including a speaker involved with the community on a panel.

The following program changes were agreed for the next two meetings:

Winter, 2009, membership roundtable discussion of ticketing software, each orchestra will come prepared with information on the system currently in use and advice on the pros and cons involved.

Spring, 2009, fund raising and development; Sandi suggested we invite a speaker for a half-hour discussion on planned giving. Specifics will be decided at the winter meeting.

**Orchestra reports** (All those received will be sent as a separate PDF due to file size.)

### **Music Library**

1.) Music Library. Matthew thanked MASO for the \$3,000 budgeted to purchase music and said it had a big impact. After much discussion it was decided John B. will send the updated Music Library twice each year to member orchestras. The librarians also want password access to it on the Web site. (What was not resolved is why librarians would need access to it on the Web site if it is already updated and e-mailed to them twice each year and contents would not change for six months. JB)

It was further decided that only one person will edit the music library; please e-mail any changes or new purchases to [lynda@bozemansymphony.org](mailto:lynda@bozemansymphony.org) by the end of each September and March. It was agreed that Lynda will be paid \$100 per year for this service from the general fund and not from funds earmarked to purchase music.

### **Break-out sessions**

Executive Directors. To start the session, John B. provided a very brief update on IRS 990 changes for reporting the current year (FY09, FY08 is still under old rules): there are no attachments allowed, salaries are reported on a calendar year basis, everything else in the filing is by fiscal year; expect time, and therefore cost, of reporting to double. Executive Directors discussed a number of other topics: private foundation funding, which is difficult at the moment; and Workers Compensation, whether musicians are employees or independent contractors.

Music Directors. Those attending discussed fundraising, youth orchestras, tightening the by-laws, and music purchases for this fiscal year. Further discussion of composer/commission idea will take place when more can attend.

Volunteers. Those remaining talked about David Hummel's e-mail for more meaningful meetings; board development; fundraising activity, what, why, and how; membership requirements for individual boards, and a system of pledging support for five years.

Based on his experience attending the League of American Orchestras national convention with MASO support, Peter raised the issue of creating a professional development fund in next year's budget to send a first or an additional attendee to a training session or conference. After much discussion, including the fact money is already available from Montana Arts Council for this purpose; there was consensus for further discussion at another meeting.

### **Schedule 2009**

It was agreed the next meeting will be in Bozeman, Friday, January 16, in conjunction with the Young Artist Competition. It was suggested the meeting start later than usual in order to allow travel time in the morning and to keep people in town so they could attend the competition the next morning. The spring meeting date and location will be decided at the January meeting.

### **Other Business**

Sandi requested and received a unanimous vote of thanks to Jackie Vick for her contributions to MASO. The next LAO national convention is scheduled for June 13, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Barsness  
Executive Director

Task List:

Peter and John B.:

Formulate and mail a thank you letter to LAO's Volunteer Council.

Gordon, Alan S., Peter, John B.

Review/update 2005 By-laws and report back January 16; consider addition of a financial committee to prepare the annual budget.

Arni

Update on Workers compensation issues with Department of Labor for January 16.

All:

Consider youth orchestra membership question and come prepared to discuss it January 16.

Each orchestra will come prepared on January 16 with information on their ticketing system currently in use and advice on the pros and cons involved.