

## **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.

## **MASO Board Meeting**

Wingate Inn, Bozeman  
Friday, February 14, 2011

## **Minutes**

### Attending

Billings Symphony: David Hummel  
Bozeman Symphony: Alyssa Phillips, Matthew Savery, Bill Hanson, Paula Blend  
Butte Symphony: Karen Porter, Mark Hayden  
Helena Symphony: Peter Bogy, Russ Martin  
Great Falls Symphony: Carolyn Valacich, Marty Cowgill, Lucas Poe-Kiser, Kim McIntyre  
Glacier Symphony: Alan Satterlee, Susan Naive,  
Missoula Symphony: absent  
John C. Barsness, staff.

President Marty Cowgill gaveled the meeting to order at 10:35 AM and introduced new attendees.

### **Old Business**

#### Consent Agenda

Motion to accept consent agenda, Minutes of the September meeting and financial report for November, as well as Executive Committee report (attached) was made by Alan, seconded by Karen, motion passed unanimously.

#### Volunteer Award

Marty noted all four nominees were incredibly well-qualified candidates and announced Ellie Parker, Helena Symphony, will receive the award this year. She was the unsung hero of Elena Symphony's executive director transition last year and the presentation will be at the January 29 performance. Marty encouraged the other three nominations to be resubmitted for next year.

#### Young Artist Competition

Competition coordinator could not attend the meeting. Members were invited to attend with the Senior Division beginning at 9:00 AM, Reynolds Recital Hall, MSU campus.

Orchestra Reports: attached as submitted.

### **Program**

Candace Strauss, Museum of the Rockies Development and Marketing Director, was the speaker.

### **New Business**

Next meeting: **Wednesday, May 11, 2011**, Wingate Inn, 2007 North Oakes, Helena; topic will be social networking, Helena Symphony will find the speaker; FY2012 topics will be decided at the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
John C. Barsness, Executive Director

**Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras**  
**Executive Committee**  
Big Sky Room, Wingate Inn, Bozeman  
February 13, 2011

**Minutes**

President Peter Bogy called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM, also present: David Hummel, Alan Satterlee; John C Barsness, staff. Absent: Sandi Culhane.

**Old Business**

MASO brochure

It was decided a tri-fold color brochure would not be cost-effective. In addition to design and printing, there is an unknown distribution cost for local hotel racks across the state. The idea behind this brochure would be to market member orchestras locally through the statewide affiliation. But for the same to less money the full-page ad in Cultural Treasures accomplishes the same purpose. Given the budget outlook, by consent the idea was tabled and will not be considered further.

Librarian contract

In point #2 it was decided to change “perusal” language to “as examination copies.” By consent the contract will be with Great Falls Symphony that organization will receive \$500 to cover all employment costs, including payroll taxes/fringe benefits. The contract was accepted as edited.

John B. reported MASO can expect at least a 40% reduction of this year’s Montana Cultural Trust grant due to shortfalls in Trust revenue. The cut may be 20-25% to the biennial grant, but the first half was paid in full, so the shortfall must be taken out of the second year which effectively doubles its impact. Discussion followed on how to replace that loss and a corporate sponsorship for the Young Artists Competition is the most likely to bear fruit. However, any revenue would be for the next fiscal year at the earliest. Without stepping on toes, Steinway for their interest in youth outreach might be a possibility. Peter will check with a source he knows and report back to the Finance Committee.

**New Business**

Finance Committee. By mutual agreement, the finance committee will meet at 9:30 AM in Bozeman, April 5, preferably in the Wingate Inn Big Sky room. Finance committee consists of Karen Porter, Marty Cowgill, David Hummel, and Peter Bogy.

Sandi Culhane’s question regarding dues was punted to the finance committee.

Meeting closed for an executive session personnel review without staff present.

Respectfully submitted,  
John C. Barsness, Executive Director

Dear MASO members,

Welcome to Bozeman! It was great to meet many of you at the September meeting. Here is a brief report of what has been happening at the Bozeman Symphony since the May MASO meeting.

Board of Directors:

Our nominating committee is actively working on building our Board of Directors and in addition to the four new members that we welcomed last fall, we anticipate the approval of an additional 4 members at our January meeting.

Concert Season:

We had a fantastic first half of our 2010-2011 concert season. Highlights include our September concert featuring the new Steinway, an all American concert in October, our annual pops fundraiser in November and a Holiday concert featuring the orchestra and choir in December. We are looking forward to a very busy second half of the season with a piano recital, two concerts with pianist as guest soloists, our free family concert "Matthew Potter and the Tuba of Fire", Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> and a new spring fundraiser.

Development

We have recently renewed a few committees on the Board of Directors, one of which is a development committee. We are working diligently on a few areas of fundraising including sponsors and advertisers, individual giving, grants and foundations, and special events. We anticipate adding an event this year and are working on building relationships with businesses and individual donors in the community.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Bozeman!

All Best Wishes,

Alyssa Phillips  
Executive Director  
Bozeman Symphony

## Butte Symphony Association Orchestra Report

- First concert was October 2 with pianist Dainius Vaicekonis. The concert featured Dainius playing Beethoven's 4<sup>th</sup> Piano Concerto and was a good beginning for our season.
- Second Concert was on December 11<sup>th</sup> and was the annual combined holiday concert with the chorale. Of special note was the few imports that were brought in to supplement the orchestra.
- Individual ticket sales were up by almost 30% for our December 11<sup>th</sup> concert over the same concert last year. This may be tied in to better promotion for the concert.
- Season Ticket Sales are down about 10%
- For the next concert we are planning a special price break and promote in the schools. "Kids, bring your parents to the concert."
- Music is coming back into the schools thanks to the effort of our new superintendant.
- Holiday Home Tour sponsored by the BSA Guild was the most successful ever.
- We are running a raffle for a painting of the Symphony by Salli Bowen.



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January 14, 2010

- The first three concerts of the 2010-2011 season were received by large and enthusiastic audiences. The opening of the season in October served as the inaugural concert for the venue's new Fazioli Concert Grand piano as it joined the theater's more "seasoned" fifty-plus year old Steinway and featured the Mauchley Piano Duo in Concertos for two pianos by Mozart and Poulenc. The concert also included the world premiere of a work by Belgian born violinist and conductor Henri Verbrugghen. Verbrugghen held positions with the Sydney Orchestra and served as the second conductor of the Minneapolis (now Minnesota Orchestra). The piece "Under The Southern Cross," although written in the early 1920's, to best knowledge was never performed and the score had been lost. Through the efforts of his granddaughter Denise Verbrugghen McFarland of Fort Benton, Gordon Johnson and Peter McKenzie, a complete score was reconstructed. In November, clarinetist Dave Bennett and his Benny Goodman Tribute Band performed with the orchestra. NEVER has the audience been on its feet more. Almost every single piece was followed by a standing ovation. We are still hearing rave comments about his work. Bennett is a true genius at the age of 26! The traditional Holiday Concert with both orchestra and symphonic choir in December, was one of the most highly attended in recent history. Although Season Tickets for the 2010-2011 season were down from projections (slightly) we have seen an increase in single ticket sales during the first three concerts of the year. Single ticket income has met our projected budget figures for the entire season in this opening quarter.

- The GFSA Board of Directors held a very productive board retreat at the Grand Union Hotel in Fort Benton in October. We find that "getting away" every couple of years gives a boost to the entire personnel, providing an atmosphere conducive to creating comradery, new ideas and sets a positive tone for the upcoming year. The meeting provided both orientation for new board members and a most productive strategic planning session as well as lots of networking.

- On November 1st we brought Lucas Poe-Kiser on board as GFSA Education & Outreach Coordinator. Lucas has a masters in both Music Education and Cello Performance and had previous experience working with the Missoula School System and the Missoula Youth Symphony. He has proved be a perfect fit for our organization. Welcome Lucas!

- The Ensembles, both Cascade Quartet and Chinook Winds Quintet will be performing on the Great Falls Community Concert Series in February. They join mezzo soprano Michelle Berger in an evening of instrumental and vocal chamber music. It will be an excellent way to introduce their music to a significantly new audience.

- The Youth Orchestra is involved in a Jazz Residency Program this year with jazz pianist and composer John Harmon. This project has brought in some new sponsorship dollars, (which are always welcome) but most importantly has provided a new experience for the young people in the orchestra. The mission of the GFSAYO is to provide training and tools for the young musicians to approach their future with confidence, commitment and accountability. The YO utilizes music (and in this year's focus, the exploration and creation of new music) as a vehicle to foster a passion for excellence, and develop leadership skills for the future. John Harmon spent a week with the orchestra this past fall, performed with them on their fall concert and will return in the spring to share his improvisational skills and will bring with his a composition that he has crafted for them.

- Tickets for Joshua Bell are selling well, but we do still have tickets available. We will be mounting P.R. and marketing campaign the beginning of February, to wrap up ticket sales.

- Our major fund raising event Black Tie-Blue Jeans is April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Five noted Montana artists, Steve Seltzer, Cliff Rossberg, Chuck Fulcher, Laurie Gilleon and Ron Ukrainetz have taken "naked violins" and turned them into works of fine art. The violins were unveiled at our holiday concert in December, and they will now be making guest appearances in various businesses and events in the community between now and April 2. We are in the process of designing an Auction Catalog which will provide the means to place silent bids both before (now) and during the event. An absentee bidder will be able to bid night of event via phone lines. The evening includes music from classical to country, food from down home to gourmet and dress from classic cocktail to western chic.

# Helena Symphony

ALLAN R. SCOTT | MUSIC DIRECTOR

Report to MASO

January 2011

## Administrative report:

The Helena Symphony is experiencing a major administrative transitory phase with the hiring of new executive director, Russ Martin in January of 2011. Martin brings over 30 years experience in the business of music and has previously led efforts in fundraising, finance, budgeting, operations, strategic planning, board governance issues, sales and marketing management as an Executive Director of the Walla Walla Symphony; Regional Manager of Capitol Records; Vice President, Business Development of national independent music distributor the Rep Company; and as President of Seattle based, Miramar Recordings. Martin has a Bachelors of Arts in Social Sciences from Washington State University and will add a Masters of Arts degree from Gonzaga University in Organizational Leadership this spring. In his new role with the Helena Symphony, Martin will serve as the chief business officer of the Symphony and will be responsible for the day-to-day operational management including all fiscal, legal, marketing and administrative matters.

## Artistic report:

The Helena Symphony opened its 56<sup>th</sup> season with a near sold out performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Featuring Sarah Brailey, soprano, Stephanie Rodousakis mezzo soprano, Michael Boley, tenor, Ryan Kinsella, bass, the Helena Symphony Chorale and conductor Allan R. Scott it was a rousing start to what has been a superb season of music.

The second concert featured world renowned pianist Carl Cranmer performing the incredibly challenging Piano Concerto by Samuel Barber. The evening culminated with Dvorak's popular New World Symphony - and a standing ovation from the appreciative audience.

Our holiday concert season kicked in with 'Christmas in the Cathedral' on Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup> in Helena's awe-inspiring Cathedral of St. Helena. The concert included some of the greatest Christmas music of all time including Bach's Magnificat. Later on in December, the Helena Symphony in conjunction with some of the nation's top professional dancers and the Queen City Ballet produced two outstanding performances of the holiday classic ballet, The Nutcracker.

This week (January 13, 2011) over 1500 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade student were invited to attend the annual Student Assistance Foundation's Youth Concert. Always a high energy, exciting concert the students this year were treated to a special performance of 'The Composer is Dead', a program designed for young audiences to not only learn about the different aspects of an orchestra and how it works, but also about self-esteem and self-confidence.

The goals of the Student Assistance Foundation Youth Concert are specifically to bring live performance of classical music to students, especially to those students who are underprivileged or living in a rural area where there is virtually no access to live music, let alone classical music. "The Youth Concert is more than a concert," says Maestro Scott. "It is designed by the music teachers throughout the region resulting in an interactive presentation involving professional actors that help show the much needed life lessons through the arts, self-expression, and how the arts and education are intrinsically linked."

It has been quite year so far...with perhaps the best yet to come... Haydn & Mendelssohn in late January, Saint Saens' Organ Symphony in the Cathedral of Saint Helena in February, the Mahler cycle concludes with the composer's Tragic Sixth in March and the season finale? Madame Butterfly in the Helena Civic Center on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by,

Russ Martin, Helena Symphony Executive Director, January 13, 2011

