

MASO Board Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2006
Sleeping Giant Room, Wingate Inn, Helena

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.

President Karen Porter called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM; also attending: Gordon Johnson, Sandi Culhane, Bill Larson, Jan Wolter, Nancy Lewis, Carolyn Valacich, Marty Cowgill, Jackie Vick, Carrie Krepps, Allan R. Scott, David Stonehocker, Jim Valeo, Susan Welsch, John Driscoll; Arni Fishbaugh and Kristin Han Burgoyne, Montana Arts Council; John C. Barsness, staff.

Old Business

There was a motion by David, Allan second, to accept minutes of previous meeting and financial report. Nancy pointed out the balance from the spring conference remained because some expenses were paid after the beginning of the new fiscal year. Bill asked where the \$4,000 from Summer Symphony was; it shows in the beginning balance distributed as directed. Karen called for the question; motion passed unanimously.

MASO Volunteer Award. The award is late this year because of the shortened spring meeting and preparation for the Henry Fogel conference. There was no response to a call for nominations during the summer, so a second call went out following the September meeting and in December a committee met by phone and selected one of three nominations. In Barbara Griffin's absence, Marty Cowgill read the letter announcing the 2005-2006 award will go to Jan Armstrong. Jackie described her as a master volunteer who sets up the orchestra and has not missed a single performance. Motion by Bill, John second, to keep to the schedule and select the 2006-2007 award winner by the spring meeting; it will be the discretion of the orchestra when to award it.

MASO Web site (www.montanasymphonies.org): John B. provided an update on the site, Carolyn caught a major misspelling that was corrected. There is a steep learning curve involved with a new database (Alpha Five v.6), but it is Web-based and should provide a good platform for the Music and Choral Libraries. After some discussion of format, it was agreed: 1.) to follow the one Allan provided and 2.) it would be up to each orchestra to update their respective libraries in this format. Bill reminded orchestras to send notice in the recommended format of new acquisitions to the MASO office as soon as they arrive. Sandi described MOLA (Major Orchestra Library Association) and recommended to Music Directors that all MASO orchestras should join. It was also generally agreed the Web site looks good and meets expectations.

Young Artist Competition

Gordon said the Music Directors had a terrific meeting in December and he sent their minutes and budget proposal previously for the rest of the board's consideration. YAC was their main topic for discussion.

- The guidelines will be reworded to guarantee each winner a performance. In March, 2007, Midori will be in residency with the Great Falls Symphony and Youth Orchestra. Gordon

offered that as one of the guaranteed performances--and Midori thinks it is a wonderful idea. Carolyn added the performance with Midori should be emphasized.

- Guidelines will be posted on MASO's Web site and should be posted on each orchestra's Web site.
- The fee will be kept at \$25 for access and more entries. Sandi asked how the participants would be selected; Allan responded that MASO Music Directors will screen applicants.

Motion by Bill, Jackie second, to approve YAC budget as proposed. It is anticipated there will be ongoing discussion of the competition and budget every two years. Nancy suggested approval at maximum of the proposed amount. David called for the question; motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Montana Arts Council

Arni announced that Kristi's sister is the newly selected Montana Rodeo Queen. MAC's next Leadership Institute will be in conjunction with the next MASO meeting May 24-25 in Helena. (MASO will hold an abbreviated meeting in the morning; the institute will begin after lunch). She also described replacement of the Organizational Excellence grants with Public Value Partnership grants. These grants will be awarded for a period of four years; applicants will provide copies of their IRS 990's for the previous 3 years, awards will range from \$2,000 to \$8,000 and be for not more than 50% over previous organizational excellence awards. Previous grantees will not receive less than their most recent award. The program is based on relationships, return on investment, and relevance—they want the story, not the facts and figures. One board member will be responsible to oversee the project and to send a letter to the Governor and the congressional delegation each year for the final report.

Orchestra reports (Sent previously.)

Break-out groups: Music Directors, Executive Directors, Board members went to separate to discuss **Board & orchestra development: marketing and audience development.**

Investments. Because of currently inverted interest (higher rates for short-term vs lower rates for long-term investments) Nancy recommended moving cash reserves to CD's in the amounts of \$15,000 for 1 month, \$10,000 for 3 months, and \$10,000 for 5 months. Jim amended the recommendation to \$15,000 each in 6, 9, and 12 month CD's in insured accounts. John B. is to find the best rate between US Bank and D.A. Davidson. Motion to accept recommendation as amended by Nancy, Bill second, motion passed unanimously.

There were no comments from the public. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Barsness, Executive Director