

Revised, July 18, 2006

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS (MASO)

May 24, 2005, Board Meeting

Wingate Inn, Helena, MT

MINUTES

Vice President Bill Larson called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Also in attendance: Peter Bogy, Carrie Krepps., Allan R. Scott, Sandi Culhane, Jackie Vick, Bernie Mitchell, Marty Cowgill, Gordon Johnson; Kristin Han Burgoyne and Arni Fishbaugh, Montana Arts Council, and John C. Barsness, staff. A quorum was noted as present.

Announcements. Gordon acknowledged the loss of our beloved colleague, Susan Welsch, which is a tremendous loss to us personally as well as the organizations. A memorial service will be held tomorrow in Butte at the Mother Lode Theater. It was agreed Peter should keep in contact with Susan's family regarding a memorial.

Minutes of the January meeting were accepted as printed.

Financial Report was accepted as presented.

Montana Arts Council Update. Arni said the budget for the FY08 and 09 biennium is aggressive and emphasizes arts education, there is a sizable plug in operating support, a boost to residency programs, and reinstatement of artist fellowships. There is a change in the grant program in that all statewide service organizations, including MASO, are treated as partners in business through a letter of agreement in which the SSO's will tell the Arts Council what they plan to do in the next year. In return, grant amounts are set for the next four years and no application is necessary.

For the Public Value grants there were 36 applications and they will not receive less than previously awarded, but will not receive more than a 50% increase, as applicable. Awards will be announced following the June 13 Montana Arts Council meeting.

Young Artist Competition. Gordon Johnson provided a status report. There will be two ads in Cadenza, spring & fall issues, containing guidelines. John B. will send both PDFs (guidelines and application form) to each orchestra executive director for printing and distribution at rehearsals to orchestra members who have private students. Orchestras will also act as emissaries to local public schools and colleges; also, there should be a special effort made with home-schooled students. He would like to see more out-of-state college students enter the competition, too, and encourages members to get that message out. He believes the Young Artist Competition is one of the best marketing tools for MASO we should make it a premier event. Sandi requested a list of talking points.

Since the competition application is teacher-driven, Arni suggested inviting music teachers a meeting prior and that could be a conduit to the campuses. Young Artist Competition information was put on the Web site in March, but the host reverted to a previous backup that returned it to its content in January and we have been unable to upload—although deletion of files was permitted—since April. Given the frustrations of working with AIT, a new Web site host will be found as soon as possible.

Appointment of committees for:

- Volunteer Award: to select winner during the summer, submit to Executive Committee with ratification at September meeting; however, the nominating orchestra will be notified prior to the meeting. John B. will e-mail guidelines to Executive Directors. Selection committee will be Marty Cowgill, Peter Bogy, and Bernie Mitchell. Motion by Gordon, Peter second, approved unanimously.
- Nominating committee for MASO in September: Jackie and Sandi volunteered to be the nominating committee for new officers.

MASO Budget for FY 2007 Motion by Peter, Gordon second, to accept budget as presented; approved unanimously.

Orchestra Reports (copies submitted earlier)

Other new or unfinished business

John B. will diplomatically remind Miles City Community Orchestra to return music to Great Falls and pay dues for this year.

Cultural Trust Grant. John B. outlined the Montana Cultural Trust grant application process, what has been requested previously, and requested ideas for the application due August 1. Gordon suggested focusing on the Young Artist Competition emerging artists and asking for more money to support additional concert expenses for the winners. Conventional wisdom was to ask for 3-4 times the current grant award and to apply in the special project category, not operational support. Also, bring one of the winners to perform for the legislative hearing next winter instead of testimony.

Web site update. There are difficulties with the Web host and John B. said the site should be up by the end of the week. It will be re-designed during the summer with the music and choral catalogues added with password protection.

Tentative meeting dates, (pending concurrence from orchestras not present), all are Wednesdays: September 20, 2006 (later changed to September 13)
January 17, 2007
May 23, 2007

Bill suggested routinely bringing a special guest as part of each meeting program. He suggests, and will contact, Joan Schmidt, Fairfield, who is president of the National School Board Association. Previously she was scheduled to speak at the MASO conference in Kalispell, but a family emergency prevented her participation. Sandi reiterated scheduling breakout sessions for information sharing in addition to the speaker.

Sandi announced Billings Symphony will move its office and share space with the Alberta Bair Theater staff ½ block from the venue.

Public comment period. There were no members of the public in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM to allow participation in the Montana Arts Council Leadership Institute.

Respectfully submitted,
John C. Barsness
Executive Director