

MASO Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 13, 2006
Wingate Inn, 2007 N. Oakes, Helena

President Karen Porter called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. She introduced new members, Kitty Brilliant, a Butte Symphony board member who stepped in to the interim Executive Director position following the loss of Susan Welsch, but could not be present today due to a Cascade Quartet school residency; Kevin Williams, new Executive Director of Helena Symphony, and the return of Alan Satterlee as Glacier Symphony's Executive Director. John B. will send copies of by-laws to all new members in the past year. Also in attendance: Carolyn Valacich, Marty Cowgill, Gordon Johnson, Nancy Lewis, Bill Larson, John Zoltek, Allan R. Scott, Carrie Krepps, Peter Bogy, Jackie Vick, Carol Mealer, John Driscoll, Jim Valeo; John Barsness, staff; Arni Fishbaugh, Montana Arts Council.

Minutes of the May 24th meeting (e-mailed previously, although no one in Helena received either version); Bill moved, Nancy seconded, to accept minutes as revised.

Financial Report (year-end financial statement e-mailed previously). There were two errors noted on page 3, apparently in spreadsheet formulas that do not affect the bottom line, and John B. will send a corrected version; otherwise, financial report accepted. Regarding further investment of cash reserves, motion by Nancy, Jim second, to purchase an insured certificate of deposit yielding 5.25% with a preferred maturity date of June 20, 2007, in the amount of \$15,000 through D. A. Davidson. That action will give MASO three CDs of equal amounts and rolling maturity dates of 12/7/06 and 4/30/07. The idea is to make prudent use of funds and simplify investment reporting through a single statement; the checking account will remain at US Bank. Unanimous approval.

Election of Officers

Jackie presented the following slate for two-year terms beginning immediately:

- President – Bill Larson
- Vice President – open until filled
- Secretary – Jackie Vick
- Treasurer – Nancy Lewis

There were no responses to the call for a volunteer to be Vice President and possibly the subsequent president in two years. After consideration Peter Bogy agreed to the nomination for Vice President for the next 2 years. Marty Cowgill moved to accept the nomination as amended, Karen Porter second. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Karen, with applause and thanks for her service from those present, passed the gavel to Bill Larson.

Old Business

MASO Volunteer Award

Marty announced there were three highly qualified candidates and the committee was deadlocked, could not reach a consensus, and requested the Past President and one other member, who did not have a candidate from their orchestra under consideration, meet during lunch to break the tie. Prior to the meeting, Karen agreed to Mary's request and also appointed Alan Satterlee to this committee; they will report back later in the day.

Young Artist Competition.

Gordon reminded everyone of the November 6 postmark deadline for applications. Over the summer he wrote to 50 music educators and university faculty inviting them to encourage their students to apply; application materials are available in PDF format on the MASO Web site www.montanasymphonies.org for download. This week John B. will e-mail each MASO executive director a press release announcing the competition to use in their communities.

Gordon has two of the three judges selected, but is still working to find a pianist and may have to look out-of-state. Three MASO music directors will perform the initial screening of applicants: Junior Division, Allan R. Scott, Helena; Senior Division, Anne Harrigan, Billings; and College Division, Elizabeth Stoyanovich, Butte. They will pare the field to about 12 in each division.

He stressed the competition is open to the public in Reynolds Recital Hall in Howard Hall on the MSU campus in Bozeman, Saturday, January 13, 2007. John B. will make travel arrangements for MASO music directors who wish to attend.

Allan R. Scott agreed to coordinate the 2009 competition. John Z. wanted the members to know he is featuring a young Kalispell cellist in an upcoming performance and if he decides to enter the contest it will be purely coincidental.

Susan Welsch memorial.

As follow-up to the May meeting, Peter said there are plans for a bronze memorial plaque to Susan that will also mention her service to MASO. The plans are in progress and the final price is not yet known, but may be in the \$5,000 - \$6,000 range. Karen added that an anonymous donor will donate a fixed amount, \$5,000 of the cost, and MASO could help by absorbing the additional amount. Motion by Peter, John D. second, in support of the Susan Welsch memorial plaque, MASO will contribute the unfunded amount up to and not to exceed \$1,000. Approval was unanimous.

New Business

MASO FY07 meeting schedule.

With a motion by Nancy, Marty second, it was decided to hold the next two meetings on January 10, and May 23, 2007. John B. will verify these dates with Billings Symphony.

Symphony orchestra reports (see attached).

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Montana Arts Council update.

Arni thanked everyone who applied for the Public Value grants; responses from these applications will be available so everyone can know what the various approaches across the state will be.

MAC is in the process of updating its 5-year strategic plan and arts organizations will be involved in that process. Thankfully, the plan only has to be updated and not started from scratch; many of the goals stated in the previous plan were accomplished.

The Council is developing two CDs/DVDs of interest to members. They will be 5-10 minute programs on economic development through the arts and the benefits of arts education. These programs can be used at public talks and as board education and development tools.

State of the Arts newspaper circulation is now over 9,100.

Art of Leadership institutes met or exceeded expectations of all attendees. She also highlighted the *Fundraising Ideas the Work* book researched by John B. for the Council. A free copy has been mailed to each organization in the state and has met with acclaim from out-of-state.

Alex Swaney, who has been Folklife Specialist for the past decade, announced her retirement. The Council is changing the position and the new person, when hired, will tie in with the economic development priority and concentrate more on entrepreneurship for artists to assist them in making more money.

Montana Cultural Trust saw a record number, 104, applications this summer; over half request operating support. The amount of money to be awarded is not known yet and probably will not be confirmed until November. There is a possible shortfall in this year's funding, although 12% is expected, and they will do their best to absorb it and not pass it on to grantees. The Governor will ask for \$1 million in additional funding for the Cultural Trust in the next session and is looking to spend part of the anticipated surplus on 1-time expenses, not continued support.

The long-time Montana Cultural Advocacy lobbyist Keith Colbo retired this year and will be replaced by two lobbyists.

She congratulated orchestras on their high quality and exciting printed materials. There is the possibility of a future conversation between Beck McLaughlin and the state's orchestras regarding outreach and service to underserved rural communities through arts education.

Program

Joan Schmidt, currently Past President of the National School Boards Association and rancher in Fairfield, presented her perspectives and experience concerning the role of the arts in our schools and the responsibility we, as both community members and people directly involved with music, have to support them. (See outline attached.)

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Volunteer Award--continued

Unfinished business was addressed. Marty Cowgill said the additions of Karen Porter and Allan Satterlee broke the stalemate in the volunteer award and Great Falls' Bill Conklin is the recipient. They gave information on the other nominations: Kay Campeau, Bozeman, and Mark Huber, Helena. The award review committee has agreed to remain for next year (they will check with Bernie Mitchell to see if she will serve again as well).

Committee recommended that information on the recipient and a press release be sent to all MASO members as well as getting the information on the MASO Web site. Also, get information to *State of the Arts*. To get back on cycle the solicitation of nominees will be on the January agenda with a March 1, 2007 deadline for submissions so the decision can be made by the May meeting.

MASO directory for FY07

New MASO representatives and updated contact information need to communicate with John B. so we can update the list. He will send a request for names and contact information. EVERYONE PLEASE RESPOND!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! In order get a list out for proofing.

Orchestra-Board relationships (topic postponed from May meeting).

Instead of taking the break-out discussion to separate groups everyone stayed together

Then, after rehashing the structure of these board meetings, the consensus was just to keep what we decided last year: send as much as possible ahead of the meeting via e-mail PDF attachment, keep all business before lunch, then have an afternoon program that enriches content for members, promotes communication, and sparks ideas.

Given the vagaries of e-mail, anti-virus programs, and spam blockers, it was agreed members should automatically acknowledge receipt of all e-mails containing attachments from the MASO office. Then John B. can follow-up with those who do not respond.

Public Comment period.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Barsness, Executive Director, and Jackie Vick, Secretary