

March 11, 2017
Symphony Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

Roll Call: Anna McCleve; Ted Vives; Kim Applegate; Allanna Jackson; Galen Wilkes; John Spadaccini

Opening Prayer: Galen

Summary of minutes / review action List:

Galen reviewed the February 11, 2017 minutes.

Locations of summer fund raiser:

Kim reported various locations for the summer fund raiser: Blue Ridge "The Gathering Place" which had available spots Monday through Thursday; however, June was a high use for weddings; Music in the Pines; Pinetop Lakes Country Club. El Rancho

Website report: There was discussion regarding who had access to e-mail list. Who could use the website would be addressed at later Board Meetings.

Music Is:

The Website provided information to home schooled pupils - Stuart's Home School.

Lobby organization of pupils went well.

WMI Central T.V. played clips of performance and conducted an interview of Ted and James.

Suggested having poster winners displayed at April performance.

Teacher evaluations were discussed and general consensus was that teacher evaluations would be helpful.

Bd. discussed one volunteer concerned about the words "Allah" being in one of the pieces. Allanna explained to the volunteer, the questioned word was a historical point and not advocating any religious belief.

Treasurer's Report: James will present an updated treasurer's report at the April meeting.

WMSO Conductor's Report

I thought that the "Music Is..." concerts went especially well. My thanks to Kim Applegate for running things, Marshall Pratt for handling logistics at SLHS and of course the entire symphony for a job well done.

I have sent out a revised schedule for March 23 – April 15 which takes into account the rehearsal for the concerto works. All the music is in and most has been distributed to the players (I think) so we should be fine as far as being ready for the soloists. I have also uploaded video files and emailed links to the members for practicing.

The soloists will be joining us on April 6 (Brian) and on April 13 (Natalie)

June 10 Concert and rehearsal schedule

Numbers are looking great for the June 10 concert. I believe at this point we will have 5 violas, 6 cellos and 4 basses, I don't know numbers yet for violins, but am anticipating a big section.

We will also have 4 trumpets and 4 trombones. I have already spoken with Sally Petre about this and have emailed John Lunt.

Kim indicates we have picked up another bassoon. Sarah Staffer will be joining us on a regular basis as she is local.

We have potentially 5-6 horn players which would mean that some of the burden of 1st could be chaired by a "co-principal" if desired.

In percussion, I'm assuming at this point that Joe will be with us on timpani. Trevor Barroero, (our marimba soloist) has agreed to cover one of the parts, which would leave the other to potentially be covered by Fred Beckley if he is in town. We need to contact him.

I would like to propose that we make a change in the upcoming concert cycle's rehearsal schedule. I am concerned that we will need some extra time. I will be out of town on Thursday, May 4. Because of the nature of this music, I'm somewhat reluctant to turn the podium over to either Bob Chilman or someone else on this date. And because I won't know what our status is preparation-wise until the week prior, I do not believe I will be able to leave detailed enough instructions for anyone to take the rehearsal that week.

I may feel differently once we get into rehearsals, and there may be some of the work that Bob or someone else can run the orchestra through. However, my "gut feeling" is that I would prefer to not have rehearsal that week.

With this in mind, I would request that we have rehearsals from 7:00 – 9:15 for this cycle.

My intention is to schedule the Marimba concerto work as the last portion of each rehearsal. This only uses strings in the accompaniment, so for most of the orchestra, it will still mean they will be able to dismiss at or before 9:00 pm.

Additionally, we need to figure out how we will handle the rehearsal with the soloist.

I do not want to have him show up and the only time he rehearses with us be the Thursday evening before the concert. Therefore, I would like explore some changes in our rehearsal schedule both for the June 10 concert and on a more permanent basis.

1. I feel that WMSO needs to start having an official dress rehearsal before the concerts. The Thursday evening rehearsal at NPC prior to each concert only allows the ensemble to get a

certain amount done and does not afford it an opportunity to rehearse in the venue of the performance. This, I believe puts the orchestra at a disadvantage.

2. **Our soloist will only be able to attend the weekend of the concert as he will be coming from Mesa. I would like to have him be able to rehearse with WMSO more than this one time. However, doing so presents potential problems logistically. The first is that the only marimba is at SLHS. I have spoken with Marshall Pratt and while he has offered to transport the instrument to NPC for rehearsals, I am somewhat reluctant to take him up on this offer based on what I have been told about the situation that occurred with the marimba at Blue Ridge HS. I also believe that a Thursday rehearsal in the performance venue would be greatly more beneficial to WMSO (and the soloist) than at NPC.**
3. **Scheduling the Thursday rehearsal prior to the concert in the concert venue (SLHS auditorium or elsewhere for future concerts) would alleviate having to move the marimba. It would also give the entire orchestra the added benefit of being in the venue so that balance, fine-tuning, and other sound and acoustical issues could adequately be addressed. – something that NPC would not provide WMSO with.**
4. Additionally, I would like to consider the possibility of an additional rehearsal in the concert venue on the Friday evening before the concert. While this would no doubt be of benefit to the June 10 concert, I am also interested in scheduling this on a permanent basis for future concerts. This would provide the soloist with an additional opportunity to rehearse the work and provide WMSO with an important and greatly beneficial final run-through before the **concert. Granted, this may be a challenge due to the musicians' schedules and ability to attend (as well as having potential financial and availability issues.)** While this is not an absolute necessity, I do believe the benefits would far outweigh the logistical and financial difficulties, and am strongly adamant about the need for this extra rehearsal.
5. In the alternative, it has been suggested that we might look at a Saturday morning rehearsal in the venue. However, my experience with this in other groups that I have performed with has not been good. I find that the players are so exhausted (physically and mentally) by the time the concert rolls around that it really amounts to diminishing returns to have a dress rehearsal the same day as the concert even if separated by several hours. Needless to say, **WMSO's afternoon concert time would not allow for much of a break if any between the dress rehearsal and the performance.**

When the question was posed to the orchestra about a dress rehearsal in the performance venue, it is my understanding that there was rather strong support for it regardless of financial and attendance burdens.

Overall, I am very pleased with the progress and improvement in the overall quality and sound of the orchestra. I hope that this comes across during the rehearsals and that I am able to communicate this to the performers.

Business Manager's Report:

Applied for funds with Walmart

Communicated with SL District about Music Is and June concert.

Music IS all set to go. A Dance group will be performing on June 9 and 10 @ 10 am in SL Auditorium.

Communicated with NPC - about rehearsals. Arranged to rehearse on March 23 & 30 at SHS.

Submitted WMSO info for AZ Gives - April 4, 2017

Updated WMSO Facebook about Music IS

Ordered and followed thru on new WMSO Banner - had Allanna pick up.

Collected and submitted info for printer for April program.

Filled out Donations forms for April concert Raffle.

Dropped off Art contest entries.

Took 3 additional registration forms to NPC.

Discussion of questions on Grant information: Allanna

1. How WMS affects the community.

Music Is contributes to the pupils interest in music and influences the pupils to continue with their music endeavors.

WMS is the only large active group in the area.

Music Is reaches in the area of 1,500 to 1,700 students. For many students, this is their only exposure to the "arts."

WMS has a number of students playing in the orchestra and many continue to participate in the orchestra after they graduate.

Students [college from Phoenix, Flagstaff, and Tucson] and high school participate in the concerto competitions.

WMS brings out of state musicians to join WMS's performances.

WMS has a Web page, which reaches the internet users

2. How WMS's programs are evaluated.

Member surveys. A recent member's survey resulted in changing concert times.

Critiques by music critiques.

3. Financial Status.

Grants.

Because of budget planning regarding venue and rehearsal space, WMS has reallocated budget items. For example, increasing projected music expenses.

Increasing money raising projects.

1. Financial planning for the future.

Researching future music costs.

Planning costs/revenue for the June 2018 performance.

2. Feed-Back from the community

Surveys.

Feed-back from attendees at the performances and the performers.

News articles.

Media presence.

Cities' willingness to contributing WMS.

3. WMS community presence.

Music Is.

NPC's non-credit class for WMS musicians.

Arizona Gives.

Surveys.

John agreed to prepare a survey regarding WMS.

Ted will donate \$200 for 3rd soloist so each concerto soloist will receive \$200.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2017

Meeting Adjourned.