



2019-2020 Season – April 11, 2020 – Board Meeting

1:00 pm Call to Order

- Board members present:
 - Mike Ramirez (President)
 - Angela Aldridge (Secretary)
 - Carolyn Knittle (Treasurer)
 - James Sasek (Fundraising)
 - Hoang Bui (Social)
 - Krista Baskerville (Membership Oversight)
- Carl Johnson (Music Director) was also present.
- David Hindal (Librarian) was also present.
- Laura McNulty (Vice President) was not present.

Secretary's Report – Angela Aldridge - Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes were reviewed as posted on the DMCO website/distributed via email. There were no objections, and the minutes were accepted into official record.

DMCO Board Terms expiring this year: James Sasek, Mike Ramirez, Hoang Bui, Angela Aldridge

Hoang Bui, Angela Aldridge and Mike Ramirez plan on continuing if re-elected onto the Board during the May annual meeting. James Sasek is undecided at this point and will inform the Board of his decision before the May annual meeting.

Grants Report – James Sasek

James applied for the Farm Bureau Financial Services grant which we have received, in the amount of \$1,000.

James has been researching potential grants related to COVID-19. COVID-19 grants have been focused mainly on assistance with salaries and rent expense, for which at this point we do not have an immediate need.

Bravo has informed us that they can send their Q3 payment early if we need it.

Carolyn Knittle sent in the application and information for the Prairie Meadows grant. We have not heard of the status of this grant for this year in light of COVID-19.

New Business

Dan Wardell, who has emceed our Fall children's concerts, is moving to a new position within Iowa PBS and will no longer be hosting our Fall concerts. The Board discussed if we should continue the children-themed Fall concerts hosted by Iowa PBS. Carl discussed the possibility of moving forward with Iowa PBS with Abby Brown, who has co-hosted with Dan in the past. Abby is very interested in continuing these concerts with her as the host. Mike Ramirez commented that the collaboration with other organizations, such as Iowa PBS, is important to DMCO. Carl Johnson commented that we have a good tradition with our first concert being a children's concert, and it would be difficult without the collaboration with Iowa PBS. It was decided that we would move forward with the Fall children's concerts in collaboration with Iowa PBS, with Abby Brown hosting.

Dan Kubus (DMCO percussionist, pianist) informed Carl Johnson that their family is moving and he will no longer be able to play with DMCO. Our Spring 2020 concert was going to feature Dan on an Elaine Erickson piece for piano and strings, for which Dan commented he already has this piece memorized. If we reschedule this concert, Dan is willing to travel to perform this piece with us, and Carl has offered to pay his travel expenses.

The Ballet performance that was supposed to occur on April 11th is tentatively scheduled for September 12th. This performance also may move to the Staplin Performing Arts Center (Valley High School).

Regarding the Spring 2020 concert, once we know if we will be able to proceed with our normal schedule for the 2020-2021 season, Carl Johnson would like to fit this concert into the schedule. This could potentially occur during the following times:

- Between the Fall and Messiah concerts
- Early June 2021
- Early January 2021 performance

Regarding the 2020 Messiah, Carl is reaching out to potential conductors.

Carl is thinking about a jazz band/orchestra piece for one of our future concerts, and is previewing a score. Carl has been working on writing the individual parts from this score. The piece is five movements. This piece would potentially fit into a concert a couple of years from now. We would need to find a jazz band to perform this piece with us.

Regarding the return of the Ballet music to Mike Ramirez, Mike commented that many parts were delivered within a few days after the message went out about returning the music, but some were still coming in last week.

Carl and Mike have been thinking about contingency plans in case we are not able to resume our season as normal in September. Ideally we could continue on with our season as planned, but virtually. One thought is a virtual mashup. It would be very difficult for all of us to perform the music live virtually, so a virtual mashup begins with the director selecting a recording as a benchmark. This recording, along with the music, is sent to the performers. Each performer plays along with the recording and records him/herself. Someone would then piece together all of the individual audio and video recordings. This would drastically change the pieces we would perform in our Fall concert, and we could also not perform anything that is not in the public domain. David Hindal commented that we are not a professional group, and the groups that have done this recently are professional groups. Also, one difficulty of performing this way is counting many measures of rest and then correctly coming in. Mike Ramirez commented that we would likely try a simpler piece first, such as Elgar's Nimrod or Wagner's Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral. James Sasek commented that perhaps we try this with a smaller group first, for which Mike agreed that we would want to test this out first to know if this is a possible contingency plan for the Fall concert. We would also need to think about people who do not have a place to play and/or sufficient recording devices.

The question was asked if we pay Carl for the Ballet and the Spring concerts. The Board decided yes. Carolyn Knittle will mail Carl one check for both (\$800). Carl donates his pay back to the orchestra to fund a Director's Fund, for which Carl will write a check to the orchestra for \$800. If either or both of these concerts are rescheduled, Carl will not be paid again. We will need to decide before August 31 if the payments should transfer to the next fiscal year.

Treasurer's Report – Carolyn Knittle

The Treasurer's report was distributed via email, which included the current financials.

Carolyn is assuming our Q2 Bravo check is in the DMCO mailbox.

Carolyn has paid for both of the commission pieces which we were planning on performing for the Spring concert.

Eighteen people paid dues for Spring concert. Unless the Board is notified otherwise, these dues will remain as having been paid for the Spring concert in the fiscal year ending August 2020. If a person notifies the Board that the dues should be counted towards next season, the dues will need to move to a prepaid expense for this fiscal year.

The grant from Bravo is a flat percentage based on expenses. This year will be detrimental for next year's grant since next year's grant is based on this year's expenses.

One of our certificates of deposit (CD) matured recently. Carolyn invested in another CD with the highest interest rate possible, which was a short-term CD. All of our assets are CDs so the downturn in the market has not hurt us that way.

Move to accept the Treasurer's report and current financials. The Treasurer's report and current financials were accepted into official record.

Library concerns

The question was asked at what point do we need to make decisions about the Fall concert, regarding our ability to obtain music. If the music is in the public domain, we just need the time to print the music. If we need to order music, would need an eight-week lead time. The Board decided we need to make a decision about how the Fall concert will be presented by July 4th. Carl has already been looking at possible pieces for the Fall concert. The Board will have a short interim Board meeting to discuss this.

Social report – Hoang Bui

The Board discussed sending something out to the whole orchestra as a thank you, perhaps a greeting card or printed postcard with a \$5 gift card to Hy-Vee. This would be sent to anyone who has played in this 2019-2020 season (Fall, Messiah, Winter). David Hindal should have names and addresses from handing out music. The motion was made and seconded, so we will move ahead with this. Hoang will need to coordinate with David Hindal and Angela Aldridge to compile a list of recipients. We would like to execute this prior to the annual meeting, and do virtual gift cards as much as possible. Mike Ramirez will take the lead on figuring out the postcards. Carolyn Knittle would have a file from dues paying members that may have addresses also. Carolyn will work to put this list in Excel, Mike will work on the postcard, and Angela will send Hoang the email list once she knows who will be receiving the postcards.

Mike will send Angela the letter for the annual meeting to send to the DMCO roster.

Membership Oversight – Krista Baskerville

Membership oversight was not specifically discussed during this meeting.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

Date set for next meeting – Annual meeting will be virtual – May 19th

The next Board meeting after this meeting needs to be 30 days after this to elect officers. During the annual meeting we'll select this date.

A short Board meeting will need to occur after this meeting and before July 4th to decide on the format of the Fall concert.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.