



2020-2021 Season – June 23, 2020 – FIRST NEW BOARD MEETING

6:34 pm Call to Order

- Board members present:
 - Mike Ramirez
 - Laura McNulty
 - Angela Aldridge
 - Carolyn Knittle
 - Hoang Bui
 - Krista Baskerville
 - Rich Gordley
- Carl Johnson (Music Director) was also present

Minutes of Annual Meeting (distributed via email)

Minutes were reviewed as distributed via email. There were no objections, and the minutes were accepted into official record.

Presentation of Board duties by Current Officers and Election of New Officers

The Grants position on the Board was vacated by James Sasek. James is willing to continue in the Grants capacity as a non-board officer. The Grants chair will transition to an At-Large position. No motion is needed for this, since the Grants position was not an official Board chair so we have not officially changed anything.

Laura McNulty mentioned that Rich Gordley had expressed interest in the Vice President position during the annual meeting. Rich stated that he would be fine with being either Vice President or an At-Large member at this time.

The Board slate was presented as follows:

- Mike Ramirez – President
- Laura McNulty – Vice President
- Carolyn Knittle – Treasurer
- Angela Aldridge – Secretary
- Hoang Bui – Board member At-Large with a specialty in Social
- Krista Baskerville – Board member At-Large with a specialty in Membership Oversight
- Rich Gordley – Board member At-Large with duties to be assigned

Laura motioned to accept the full slate, and Krista seconded the motion. All were in favor of the full slate with no opposition. The new officers are as noted above.

Final Plans for 2020-2021 Year

Per Mike, we would be one of the only groups in the Des Moines area who would be performing as normal if we moved forward with a full concert in the fall. Mike does not think it would be wise to move forward with a live concert. This would include both the fall concert, and the Messiah.

Discussion occurred regarding the Messiah. We do have a director lined up for the Messiah, but that was before COVID-19. The choir element is riskier than an orchestra performance, as the choir is considered a “super spreader” activity. Discussion was had that audience attendance would probably be low as well.

Mike presented before the Board a motion to suspend performances for the fall concert and the Messiah. This will be in the format of a roll-call vote. This just requires a majority, it does not need to be unanimous. The motion did pass unanimously by the Board to suspend performances for the fall concert and the Messiah.

Discussion was had that it would be great to do something in the place of our fall and Messiah concerts. Carl mentioned that if we had a space to do a rehearsal, we could do a recording with strings only. The players could spread out in a room wearing masks. The music would be sent out ahead of time. Angela to send a message to the string players to gauge interest in the string players recording one live piece.

Per Mike, we are still making our normal donation to Grace United Methodist for the use of the rehearsal and storage space. We do not know if/when they will be open to outside groups. Mike has had a conversation with our programs contact (Standing Ovation). Many ensembles who advertise within these programs are opting for electronic programs, along with a small number of printed programs for record-keeping. No advertisers have backed out of being included in the programs.

We discussed Iowa PBS involvement in any upcoming concerts. Carl attempted to get ahold of Abby Brown before the Board meeting. Carl will get in touch with Abby to let her know that we have suspended the fall concert. Carl will also discuss with Abby potential involvement in the fall. Could they possibly dedicate a segment of their show broadcasting the DMCO playing? We would only need to prepare 1-2 pieces.

It was ultimately decided that in the near future we would do a practice round of a recording a “virtual mashup” – where players record themselves independently, and the recordings are then brought together. The plan is as follows:

- Inform the membership of the plans for the fall concert/Messiah – by the end of the week of 6/22. This would be the equivalent of Mike’s annual letter.
- After the membership is notified via email, wait one day and post on Facebook and our DMCO website (for the public).
 - Positive verbiage should be utilized – something similar to “We are inviting you back to join us in 2021 but are still figuring out how to make music in the meantime”.
- Any time after the membership is notified, distribute the music and the recording of the music with Carl conducting to the membership.
 - Carl will send this recording to Mike and Angela to review. The plan is for this to be Farandole from L’Arlesienne Suite No. 2.
- The membership will have a three-week window to submit their recordings.

- The goal is to create a presentable “mashup” recording by the beginning of August.
- After this test run, the Board will meet in mid-August to decide our approach for the fall concert.
- A letter from Carl would be distributed after the Board meeting with the decision on the approach for the fall concert.

There was discussion on how people record themselves while listening to a reference recording. The Board will provide instructions on how to do this.

The Board discussed the need to have software to put together the “virtual mashup” recordings. Mike has researched software, and it falls within the \$250-300 range. Mike proposed a motion to the Board to purchase software of \$300 plus sales tax. Laura seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor. The software should be purchased at least by the end of August to fall into our current financial fiscal year.

Rich posed a question about the Ballet – do we know if the Wizard of Oz is off for September? We have not heard definitely if it is off but we are guessing that it is. Per Carl, even if it is on for September, they may utilize a recording of the orchestra that they already have instead of having a live orchestra.

Set date for next meeting

Date was set for August 4th at 6:30 pm. By this time all the individual recordings need to be turned in and put together (three weeks for individual recordings and one week for production to put the recordings together). Based on the recording, the Board will decide how we will proceed with the fall concert.

Treasurer’s report: CAROLYN

The Treasurer’s report was distributed via email. We have paid for all of the Target gift cards (\$295). We paid for the post office box (\$196 – up \$20 from last year). We have received some donations from the usage of Amazon Smile. Nothing has significantly changed since the annual meeting. The Treasurer’s report was accepted into official record.

Social Report: HOANG

Discussion was had on what we will do this fall in place of our ice cream social. It was decided that we will do this when we return in person at the beginning of 2021.

If anyone hears that someone did not receive a Target gift card and should have, let Hoang know.

Grants Report

Mike inquired if we received the funds from Bravo. Carolyn said we will receive the next payment in July.

Prairie Meadows has suspended their giving year.

Review of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was very well attended.

New Business

Carl discussed the 2021 spring concert. Jonathan Sturm and Julie Fox Henson are planning on playing the Mozart Sinfonia. Carl asked them if they would still play with us if it has to move to 2022. They both said they would try their best to play with us in 2022 if it has to move.

Carl discussed the 2021 winter concert. We are planning on playing the Fantasia for piano and orchestra. Carl is unsure what the key players will think about performing this in February. We will need to discuss as this gets closer.

It is still planned that we will perform Peter Pan with Ballet Des Moines in April 2021.

Laura mentioned that the English horn that the orchestra owns needs repair. The Board agreed that it can be sent in. Laura is planning on checking out places to send it in to see what is available. We also discussed the bass clarinet. Laura Appenzeller could also send this instrument in if it needs repair, and/or purchase a new mouthpiece.

Carolyn asked Mike about the next time Mike would check the PO box. Laura mentioned that she works downtown and could check the box if we were able to get an additional key. No one was sure what it would take to provide an extra key.

Any further business – for the good of the order

None.

Adjourn

Mike motioned to adjourn at 8:15 pm, with a second from Krista.