

March 7, 2024

Meridian Symphony Orchestra Board Meeting at the offices of Sherer & Wynkoop, in Meridian.

In Attendance: Dan Malan, Jenny Iorga, Annette Matlock, Steve Sherer, Richelle Greene, Ken Suchy, Kevin Bolen, Terry Berger, Jennifer Anderson, Cathy Durfey, Lee Roby, Louise van der Eijk.

Absent: Jennifer Rhees, Jim Ogle

March 2024 minutes approved.

**YAC 2025.** Starting preparation in fall 2024. Recap of YAC 2024. 36 participants. No issues, everything ran smoothly.

Communication with Lori on concert night – miscommunication regarding how we were going to celebrate her mother. Lori was under the impression they were going to sing Happy Birthday. It wasn't well communicated exactly how we would honor her mother.

**Fundraising and donations.** We have a Venmo account. We can create a QR code linking to our Venmo account. Cathy will add this to the website. Cathy would like to do something in addition to Venmo as many of our patrons are older and don't have (or wish to have) a Venmo account. She has looked into Paypal. Cathy would like one person to be in charge of donations. Ken Suchy has been nominated to be the assigned receiver of donations. Ken agrees. Steve made a motion to nominate Ken to be the receiver of donations. Kevin Bolen seconds. All in Favor.

Richelle confirmed info to be posted on social media.

Ken Suchy states Melody Mitchell wants to sponsor \$500 to the next concert in honor of her grandparents. She would like them mentioned in the program and be provided comp tickets.

**Tickets** from last concert. 554 total tickets in attendance. Our biggest source of tickets is online. We didn't have enough volunteers to count attendees. 217 comp tickets requested; around 121 were picked up. Question of putting a limit on the amount of comp tickets to offer orchestra members. Decision to track comp ticket use throughout the season and reconvene.

### **Youth Orchestra.**

Summary of the questionnaire. Some issues – inconsistency with music director. Audition process? Concerts not well organized. Dan recognizes there is a need in the valley but as a board we need to be more involved. Things to consider: we need to select an appropriate conductor. We need to decide an audition process. How much

does the MSO participate e.g. participation in sectionals. Steve suggests there be a committee of 3 people to take this on. Possibly look at 2 conductors. Jenny states she believes it needs to be open to a level, not an age. Jenny identifies the reason why kids love BPYO is because of Jen Drake's energy. Discussion of logistics and what needs to be in place to make the youth orchestra happen. We need to establish a timeline by the end of our season.

**Facilitron.** Steve says it's been a difficult issue. Steve will teach Jennifer Anderson about Facilitron. Steve says it's important for those with a specific role to provide some info about their roles. Steve has talked to Amy Murphy who is interested in getting MSO cemented in at MHS. Steve has not gotten much response from Cord. Steve mentioned someone who expressed willingness to do sound and light for us for free. Steve talked about the ongoing issues with scheduling.

Lee brought up about conflicting dates with Serenata and to work on scheduling concerts on different nights.

**Percussion equipment.** Discussed the benefits of owning our own percussion equipment. Some challenges e.g. storage. This was tabled for the next meeting.

**Lobby issues.** We need more volunteers. Cathy suggests we have a dedicated contact person for the retirement and senior living. Dan suggests contacting the National Honor Society and Boy Scouts for volunteers. Annette will write down specific volunteer duties that she needs.

Steve says Adam Bendorf doesn't have time to be the MSO manager. The role of MSO needs to be more clearly defined - a job description. Steve will send out a list that we can add to for manager job responsibilities.

Dan states it would be nice to have a stage manager – a dedicated volunteer to organize set up and tear down. We need at least 3 people to handle the risers.

**Attendance** policy. One concern is – who makes the official decision about someone not attending, and who tells that person they are or are not playing? Should exceptions to (missed) attendance be decided by the section leader? Need to reiterate better communication regarding missed attendance and extenuating circumstances.

**Kleiner** days. Issues with direct sunlight shining on string players. Response was they (Meridian City) suggested we put 10ft canopies over the steps. They don't want to move the time due to other activities. Steve also shared they sent a 4-page Professional Services Agreement. Steve requests motion to sign this. Dan makes motion to give Steve authority to sign the contract. Terry seconds. All in favor. Steve has been assigned authorized representative.

Ken Suchy states that when he made the last deposit he checked the signatories – he is the only one left. He requests there be additional signatories. Ken suggests the president and one additional. Steve makes a motion to assign Dan and Richelle as signatories. Dan seconds the

motion. All in favor.

Steve also adds we need to assign a Vice President. He also states our by-laws state we need to conduct an annual evaluation of the conductor. We will discuss this in the next board meeting. Steve will email regarding this as the evaluation will need to be done before the next concert.

Jenny states Jim and her had a conversation about how someone needs to be assigned to enlist donations.

Someone needs to communicate with David regarding who the donors were.

**Next meeting scheduled for May 6, 2024.**