

MINUTES
Central Iowa Symphony Board
November 13, 2007

Attending: Donita McCoy (presiding), A. M. Fink, Kathleen Foster-Wendel, Karl Gwiasda

Administrative

President McCoy called the meeting to order at approximately 7:25 pm. The distributed agenda was approved.

The minutes for the meeting of October 3 were approved with two emendations: correct the misspelling in II.A.1 to read "Polashek"; and revise II.B.1 to read "Hollis Monroe has agreed to be narrator."

McCoy distributed copies of the budget review prepared by Treasurer Ringwald. The statement shows that there continues to be a budget shortfall. Expenses in October were atypically high because they include fees for three guest artists rather than just a single artist and also include a one-time cost for the brochure and program cover design. Nonetheless, there is a clear need for added revenue through ticket sales, ads, and contributions.

McCoy reported that Markley wishes to step down as secretary, though she would continue to serve on the board. Gwiasda agreed to take over the secretary's duties for the rest of the board year.

McCoy noted that the board needs to identify possible new members, both for the immediate purpose of filling the four vacancies that now exist and for the longer-range purpose of having candidates to turn to in the coming seasons. One of the existing vacancies is to be filled by an orchestra member. McCoy will look into finding a willing participant.

Orchestra and Concerts

Search committee for new conductor

McCoy reported that no applications have yet been received for the conductor's position. Two of this season's guests have, however, expressed an interest and may be submitting resumes. Because the concerts conducted by guests would be considered audition concerts for any guests who applied, Gwiasda recommended that the Search committee prepare evaluations after each concert this season so that the appraisal will be available should any guest conductor eventually submit an application. Fink will speak to committee chair Presley about instituting an evaluation procedure.

December 8 concert

McCoy reported that if the December concert is to include a visit from St. Nick, the guest conductor would like that appearance to occur at the program's end rather than in the middle. The board members present agreed that a visit from Santa would be a welcome addition to the afternoon. The occasion might allow an opportunity for children to be photographed with Santa. Fink will ask Chuck Jones, who played Santa last year, if he would take the role again this year.

Foster-Wendel will take charge of hall decorations for the concert. She will look into having a local florist loan a few poinsettia plants for display on the stage and into finding a local merchant who would donate candy canes or chocolates for distribution to the children at the concert. McCoy will email the board to seek volunteers to assist with preparations for the concert.

Keys will see to preparing publicity material for submission to *The Tribune*. McCoy will appear on the "Morning with Mël" radio show on November 30 to talk about the concert. Gwiasda will lay out a simple poster, to be printed on holiday stationery, so that announcements of the concert can be put up at various sites around town.

Because the December concert takes place in late afternoon, the board members present agreed that the board should take guest conductor Phil Peters to dinner afterwards. Aunt Maude's was suggested as a convenient place to go. McCoy will make reservations.

Orchestra support

Grants

Foster-Wendel reported that COTA has provided the CIS with a \$750 mini-grant in support of the Young Artists concert. COTA will announce its operating grants in December. The CIS has asked for \$10K. Foster-Wendel noted that COTA has expressed an interest in performances that bring together different arts. She said that in its planning for the 2008-2009 season, the board may wish to consider including a concert that incorporates another art, such as singing or dance, with the orchestral performance. She added that she is looking into other possible sources of grants.

Business sponsorships

McCoy reported that no additional business sponsors have been found since the last concert.

Young Artists Auditions

McCoy reported that the announcement of the Young Artist Auditions has been sent to schools throughout the state. So far, no applications have come in, but the deadline is still over 3 weeks away.

CIS/AIOFA flyer swap

McCoy reported that she and Sara Compton (from the ISU Center) have made an agreement to place AIOFA flyers in the December CIS playbills and CIS flyers in the January AIOFA concert playbills. Some sort of half-sheet flyer advertising the CIS spring concerts will have to be prepared in time for the AIOFA concert in January.

Appeal letter

McCoy said that she is drafting a letter to accompany the annual appeal for donations. Her aim is to have the letter ready for mailing just after Thanksgiving. She said that she would welcome suggestions for points to stress or matters to include.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Karl Gwiasda
Secretary