

MOSAIC HARMONY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022

Attending (virtual): Marsha Gallagher, Kurt Jaeger, Teresa McConnel, Jan Callaway, Sallie Williams, David North (half hour by phone), Sabine Creamer.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

The Minutes from the 10/13/22 Board meeting were approved.

MINUTES IN CHOIR NOTES: It was decided that Sabine will attach a direct link to the approved Minutes in Choir Notes each time they are approved. She will post the link to the Bulletin Board in the MoHa website when approved Minutes are not yet available so that members can see past Minutes if they wish.

Treasurer Report:

MONTHLY BUDGET: Kurt summarized the monthly Budget that he had sent to us. Concert expenses included rental of GW Memorial Theatre for \$1600, and \$700 for the sound engineer. *Kurt will contact GW Memorial to request that we get the \$500 Security Deposit back. The total ticket sales for the concert were \$3,852.

We have not yet received the \$750 payment from the Nov. 1 Interfaith Works concert.

David said that Christian was very appreciative of our letter and check related to the miscommunication about doing the sound for the October 9 concert.

Fundraising/Grants Report:

ARTS FAIRFAX: Sallie stated that she had spoken with Dick VanDuziend who agreed to be a resource to her related to grants, but that he did not want to write it himself.

CAPITAL ONE VENUE: Sallie asked if we are interested in applying for the Capital One Vault space through FairfaxArts for a future Spring concert. She said that the fee would be only \$600, and it would seat 250 people.

Music Director Report:

WORLD HARMONY WEEK: David reported that he found out from UUCF that the Feb. 7 date was not available at UUCF. He said that he told the Interfaith Conference person that we could not do the event this year since we do not have a venue or a partner (due to other faith houses opening up slowly related to covid).

COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT: Sabine reported that TEMA choir will be joining us for this concert on March 25. David is looking for one more choir that is available to participate.

Search Committee Report:

Kurt reported that the Search Committee for an Assistant Director had a good meeting and put together a job description. They are working on procedures to follow, i.e., how to get applications (hoping to begin advertising in January), evaluating the applications (by end of Feb./March), with the goal of hiring someone by the spring. Kurt said they might reach out to

Nikki, who was involved in the last search, for her input. The Committee hopes to have a second meeting sometime near the end of the month. Teresa said that she had reviewed the bylaws and it stated that the choir members needed to vote on the Assistant Director. *Kurt said he would look that up, and if so, alert the Committee to this.

Membership Report:

CONTACTING MEMBERS: Jan reported on her efforts to contact members and former members who had not yet paid their dues. She said that some members have changed from Performing Members to Supporting Members. She told some of the past members about the Board's change to the Covid policy (allowing unvaccinated members to come in person with masks and proof of negative covid test within 24 hours).

SCHOLARSHIP: Jan said that one member had asked for a scholarship to pay for dues.

VOTE: The Board approved the scholarship for the member who requested it.

Programs and Administration Report:

FOLLOW UP WITH PREVIOUS CONCERT INTEREST: Sabine has followed up with organizations, churches, etc. who had previously (pre-covid) expressed an interest in our doing a concert for them (e.g., JCC, NVMHI, Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, and Accotink UUC in Burke) but has not gotten any further interest at this time. She said that two individuals from our Nov. 1 Interfaith Works concert had expressed interest in a possible concert in the future. Sabine said that she inquired about the MLK Holy Cross Hospital event for 2023, but they are not sure if the event will be virtual or if they will have an outside group participate.

INVITATION LETTER: Sabine said it would be very helpful for her to have an invitation letter (digital) that could be sent out to our contacts and perhaps churches and organizations that our members belong to.

FREE CONCERTS: There was a discussion about whether we should do concerts without payment, i.e. for marketing purposes. Kurt mentioned that we do need to pay the musicians for concerts. Marsha suggested that some places will allow a "free will offering" in place of fees. *Sabine said she will work on getting us to perform at the next Fairfax Fall Festival.

COMMUNITY UNITY CONCERT: The Community Unity Concert is still on for March 25, with the TEMA USA choir participating, and room for another choir. This will be a free concert at UUCF.

Old Business:

MOHA WEBSITE: Board members agreed that since we do not currently have funding to hire an outside professional for major changes to the website, that we should keep working on incremental changes ourselves. Sabine continues to work together with Peggy and they made a few suggestions and shared this online blog in March: <https://blog.chorusconnection.com/19-awesome-chorus-websites-to-inspire-your-next-website-redesign>. A few improvements have already been implemented. Sabine emphasized (in agreement with Peggy) that website maintenance/renovation is an ongoing process and that we (Peggy and webmasters) rely on the board's input. She reminded us that the IT consultant that we have (Brian Dreyer) can help us by making technical changes to the website.

SUGGESTIONS ABOUT WEBSITE: Board members suggested questions to ask when considering our website, e.g., how does it flow; can you scroll to look it over; do you like the color schemes; can there be a button to go back to the top of the page; is there a menu at the top; what is the ease of navigation; can it be more mobile friendly; what do you like and what drives you crazy.

CALL TO ACTION ON WEBSITE: It was suggested that the Homepage needs to say to someone: come join us; come hire us; your organization will benefit from MoHa singing at your event.

Sabine again requested more professional photos and clips to put on the website. Teresa suggested considering putting the video that was done professionally (“Something to Sing About”) back on the homepage.

TO DO - RELATED TO THE WEBSITE: *** Board members are asked to go to at least three different websites (can be other choirs or other organizations) and list what you like and don't like, and to send comments in before the next Board meeting.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL: Sabine would like to see improvement in communication with the musicians responding to her inquiries about availability, etc. Related to concerts, Sabine has worked on a document of items that need to be accounted for related to a concert. Two items that need to be added to the checklist are sound and videotaping. There was a discussion about the tradition that the Board Vice President was previously involved in the Spring concert. Teresa suggested that there continue to be a Board member (possibly the Vice President) working with Sabine in a supportive role. Marsha had previously said that she has already spoken with Sabine about what she might need or not need for the next Spring concert. Kurt agreed that for future concerts, there should be one person in charge, and the roles should be defined.

New Business:

REVIEWING THE MISSION/VISION STATEMENT: Teresa suggested a discussion on whether we should put back the word “Interfaith” in our MoHa mission/vision statement, as well as whether we should return the “music in the African American Gospel tradition” to the statement. Since David had to leave the meeting early, it was decided to discuss this at a future meeting when he is here.

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS: It will be important to discuss how we will plan for the next few months in Mary's absence, since we do not know how long she will be unable to resume the President's role.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

DECISIONS MADE BY BOARD VIA EMAIL AFTER THIS MEETING:

GENOUT GET TOGETHER FOR JAN. 7: Laura emailed the Board to request that we put Jan. 7 on the MoHa calendar for a voluntary event with GenOUT. Nikki will be doing another Leadership Building Workshop with them, and there will be a potluck beforehand.

VOTE: January 7, 2023 will be reserved on the MoHa calendar for a voluntary event with GenOUT.

CAPITAL ONE VENUE APPLICATION: Sallie asked for clarification as to whether she should make the application to Capital One venue for our Spring concert in 2024. The Board feedback was to proceed with the application.