

MOSAIC HARMONY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

Attending (virtual): Kurt Jaeger, Teresa McConnel, Jan Callaway, Sallie Williams, Crystal Jefferson, David North, Sabine Creamer, Laura Romstedt and Eddie Adkins (first part of meeting).

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

The Minutes of the 11/10/22 meeting were approved.

UPDATE ON MARY BUTLER: Mary is now recovering at home with therapy. Laura will announce a Meal Train sign up for her.

GENOUT UPDATES: Laura and Eddie came to give updates on two dates with GenOut. The first date of January 7 was approved by the Board via email. The place is changed to the choir's new rehearsal space at an Episcopal Church near Dupont Circle. It is near Dupont North Metro and there is no parking nearby. GenOut rehearses from 10-12, and there may be a pot luck lunch around 12:30. The Leadership workshop (Nikki) will be held from 1:30-4:30. They are hoping that some MoHa people will come even if it's just for the Leadership workshop.

The second date is Sat. May 6 (possible timeframe of 7-9pm or 7:30-9:30pm). The title is "I Can Do" and it would be a time of sharing something that GenOut members and MoHa members are interested in. This could be poetry, art, music, etc. The parents would also be invited and we would have snacks. Laura has investigated the Vienna Community Center, which would cost \$30-40 an hour, and plenty of parking is available. A reservation cannot be made until Jan. 15. If this is not available, we could use the space at Antioch Church at no charge. Laura said we would need a keyboard (and David said he could bring one). There are no potential MoHa gigs/events on this date so far. Eddie agreed that it would be a great opportunity for members of both choirs to share interests with one another. He wanted to emphasize that the event would be purely voluntary, so there is no pressure to attend. The Board agreed to this May 6 date and event. Laura will pursue the venue.

Treasurer Report:

Kurt had sent out a regular monthly report, and will send out final reports after he returns in a few days. He reported that the GW Memorial said that they mailed the check for the security deposit refund today.

Membership Report:

Jan reported that another paid membership had come in.

Programs and Administration Report:

Sabine continues to contact organizations about possible MoHa concerts. She sent a reminder to Holy Cross Hospital but they have not gotten back to her yet. St. Ann's in Reston said that they are postponing our potential concert until a Sat. or Sun. in April or May, if they can secure funding. The cost of a full concert is \$2,000. Sabine said that we have not yet received the audio recording from our October concert, and that Gary Phillips has not emailed her back about this yet.

Music Director Report:

David is impressed with the choir's learning of four new songs already, and feels that this is good momentum for this season. He said that choir members appreciate the MP3 recordings for practicing. David said that many of the songs this season are in the Gospel tradition, as a way to re-ground and re-root ourselves in the way we have always been.

Assistant Director Search Committee:

Kurt reported that the Search Committee had another meeting on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. They talked about process and the schedule for the Search. They plan to put out advertisements soon. Nikki had said that using Craigslist had been very helpful in the past. After receiving resumes/applications, the Committee will review and evaluate them, and schedule phone interviews. Then they can select one or two candidates. A candidate can be invited to attend part of a rehearsal. After the candidate leaves the rehearsal, the choir members can vote on whether to hire the person (according to the Bylaws the choir needs to vote on this).

Fundraising/Grants Report:

Sallie briefed us on what is needed in the application for the Pandemic Recovery Grant from ArtsFairfax. We had applied earlier in June 2020. This grant is due January 20, 2023. They want a lot of details and data. One of the things that she needs from each Board member is a Bio. These should be 75-100 words, including professional qualifications. Sallie found some old Bios on the Google drive, i.e., David and the musicians. She asked David to condense his. Sallie would like us to send her our Bios by the first week of January. A listing of Board members, with addresses, and professions, work addresses, etc. is also needed. *Teresa said she would make this list and send it to Sallie.

FairfaxArts wants data and evidence of our outreach activities that are available to all residents of Fairfax County. They also are interested in how many of our members live and/or work in Fairfax Co. Sallie reached out to Muriel for information from previous grants, but Sallie did not hear back from her. Kurt said that he and Sabine have financial and other data that might be useful. The application asks for three recent "work samples." We were able to hold rehearsals virtually during the height of the Covid seasons, so that everyone had access. We also created some digital song performances. Sallie said all this information will also be helpful for the regular FairfaxArts grant that is due in April and awarded in June.

Old Business:

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL: Sabine brought up the difficulty with communication responses from the musicians. David said that he has been really stressing to the musicians the importance of responding to Sabine's communications. Sabine said that they did actually get back to her most recent request related to the possible concert at St. Ann's. She asked David if he could cc her on his emails to them. David said that the musicians don't use e-mails very much, and they usually text or use the phone. Crystal suggested using group texts to communicate with them as she had success with that for the National Harbor Hospice Conference event earlier this year. Sabine suggested that maybe she could come to a rehearsal early to talk with the musicians in person about how important this is.

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO MISSION STATEMENT: Teresa wanted to discuss whether it would be good to put the word "interfaith" back into the description and Mission statement of MoHa, as well as the type of music that we sing, which used to be described as "music in the African

American Gospel tradition.” Kurt said that these two words and phrases were deleted about two years ago because Muriel had suggested it might be harder to get corporate funding, etc. if religious words were included in the description and Mission statement. Teresa noted that Muriel also said upon leaving, that it is hard for a small organization like MoHa to get corporate sponsors. David said that he used to feel like it was important to use the work “interfaith” but he has changed his perspective on that now. Kurt noted that our website does not say anything about what type of music we sing, except that we sing music to inspire, energize, and unite people, etc. David said that the important thing to him is that we present a “pro-active engagement, over and above entertainment.” After some discussion, the majority of the Board agreed that the description and Mission statement should stay as they are now. It is possible that it might increase the possibility that corporations and others might support us.

New Business:

PLANNING IN MARY’S ABSENCE: It is necessary that we discuss and plan for how to proceed in Mary’s absence due to her injuries. According to the Bylaws, the Board can decide if another Board member would like to step in as President; or if someone outside of the Board would step in, the choir would have to vote on that. We need to discuss who is able and willing to step in from the current Board. We will discuss this further and come to some decisions at the Board meeting in January.

SAG MEETING: *Jan volunteered to be the Board representative and attend the next SAG meeting on January 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm.

Submitted by Teresa McConnel, Secretary