

MOSAIC HARMONY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

Attending (virtual): Marsha Gallagher, Kurt Jaeger, Teresa McConnel, Jan Callaway, Crystal Jefferson, Sallie Williams; David North, Sabine Creamer; Jim Price, Karen Stern, Claudia Stallings (visiting Board candidates).

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

The Minutes of the 5/11/23 Board Meeting were approved.

Treasurer Report:

CURRENT AND END OF THE SEASON FINANCES: Kurt had sent out the monthly financial report and displayed it on the screen for us to see. We currently have about \$40,000 left in reserves. We have received about \$2700 of the \$4000 Pandemic Recovery Grant and will receive the rest after an end of the season report is sent to ArtsFairfax. We also received \$900 from them from the Ticket Subsidy Grant, and \$1500 from MedStar for our concert in February. Kurt estimated that we would end the season with a deficit, and about \$35,000 in reserves.

PROBLEMS WITH LAPTOP FOR ZOOM REHEARSALS: Crystal brought up the problem of difficulties with virtual participation (zoom) for rehearsals. Kurt said that the old laptop could be problematic and that the internet reception at UUCF was fine. He said that he thought a new laptop would cost about \$750. The Board discussed whether we needed any other technology to help with choir rehearsals, e.g., microphone, speakers. Kurt suggested that the laptop was the major replacement needed now, and that if other things were needed, there could be fundraising for that in the future.

VOTE: *Kurt is authorized to purchase a laptop for MoHa to use at rehearsals, etc.

NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET: Kurt explained how his proposed budget for the 23-24 season was arrived at by estimating performance fees, membership dues, and possible donations for Income. For Expenses, there was no change in compensation for employees, but the new Assistant Director salary was an added expense in the budget.

Crystal asked about the cost of the possible venue for the 30th Anniversary concert in 2024. Sabine had not known that someone had contacted Schlesinger Hall (NVCC) as a possible venue while she was gone on vacation. David explained that he had wanted to start that process as soon as possible and Kim had volunteered to get in touch with Schlesinger. She said they told her that they would not start reviewing applications for 2024 until June 12, 2023. David reminded us that he has pledged \$5000 towards this concert, and Kim said she would look for underwriters. Sabine said that she also has a contact at Schlesinger since her other choir has performed there. *Sabine said she

would call Kim and talk with her about this since Sabine is in charge of concert arrangements.

MEMBERSHIP FEE: The question of raising the membership fee was discussed since the fee had not be increased in many years. It was agreed that this could help on the Income side of the budget for next season. Sallie agreed and mentioned that she had been on a virtual review of ArtsFairfax grants and had gotten positive feedback from ArtsFairfax about MoHa. She said that they were very impressed with our outreach efforts with GenOut and Tema choirs. Sallie said that she felt very proud of MoHa and is encouraged about our future. In discussing how much the membership fee should increase by, the Board decided that a \$25 increase would probably not seem too much to our members considering inflation etc. We also will continue to offer scholarships for anyone who cannot afford it.

VOTE: The membership fee for the 23-24 season will increase to \$150.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED BUDGET: Kurt said he would present a summary of the budget for the 23-24 season at the Annual Meeting. (He will be in Peru for the July Board meeting). Kurt will adjust the proposed budget with the increased Membership fees, and possible additional costs for the 30th Anniversary concert, and additional donations.

VOTE: The proposed budget for the 23-24 season, with current modifications, is approved.

Membership Report:

Jan reported that we currently have 57 members (42 Performing members, and 15 Supporting members). To hold an election for new Board members at the Annual Meeting, we need 33% of members to vote (19 members). The subject of possible electronic voting came up. The pros and cons of this were discussed. Members were already told that if they could not be at the Annual meeting, they could email their Yes or No for the slate of candidates to Teresa. She said she had already received several of these email votes. We also wanted as many members as possible to come to the Annual Meeting in person or virtually so they could hear the Annual Report and be a part of the last meeting of the season. It was decided to discuss the idea of electronic voting again next year. Kurt suggested that in the future the Bylaws should be revisited to specifically state the acceptance of email votes and electronic voting if that is what is decided. *Teresa will send an email notification to the choir this week, with notice of the Annual Meeting on 6/27/23, and the slate of Board candidates that will be voted on.

Programs and Administration Report:

SPRING CONCERT 6/17/23: Sabine said that she currently has about 10 volunteers to help out at the concert and she thinks that is enough. *Kurt said he would give the

check for \$750 to Unity for the venue on June 12. Amy Connolly, the Music Director at Unity said that she would be at the concert. Kim has agreed to do the digital program as well as the one page program to be handed out at the concert. Kim will send the drafts to the concert team, Sabine and Crystal, for proofing. *Sabine said that she would ask Laura Romstedt to put a request for donations into the Concert script. Sabine asked about reserved seating for the Vinson Hall guests, and possible Fairfax County Government officials who might come. It was decided to put signs on the first two rows for the guests. Marsha asked about room for wheelchairs. *Sallie said she would get in touch with Midge to see if any of the Vinson Hall guests need special accommodations. *Sabine said she would send out another reminder to choir members to sign up on SignUp Genius for this concert. Currently 29 members are signed up.

INTERPRETER FOR THE CHOIR: There was a discussion of how we could get an interpreter for our concerts when Raquel cannot be there. Marsha suggested the idea of teaching the choir some simplified signs that we could use with our songs. Teresa suggested that since ASL is a language and Interpreters have intensive training, that would be hard to do. Crystal also reminded us that the Interpreter would have to work with David ahead of time to prepare the songs. Sallie noted that accessibility is also an important factor to ArtsFairfax. It would be great if we could find an ASL Interpreter who would donate their time when we need someone.

DoD EMAIL: Apparently the Director of Development email (Muriel's old email) is currently going to Peggy. Kurt said that the email is already suspended/de-activated, so it should not be a problem.

FUTURE EVENTS AND CONCERTS: Sabine said that Shana's daughter had contacted her about a possible going away party for Shana on June 30. She does not know if they want us to sing. *Sabine will let us know more when she has more information. The Unity Walk is scheduled for Sept. 10, and we are scheduled to perform at the Fairfax City Fall Festival on October 14. February 4 is World Harmony Week. David has been in touch with Rodef Shalom to see about doing something with them. They have said that there space is only free from 3-5pm. *David will be discussing this with them.

Music Director:

Since David currently has another commitment on Thursday evenings, he was not able to be at the meeting for very long. It is suggested that for the July Board meeting, he be given a time at the beginning of the meeting for his report.

Old Business:

ANNUAL MEETING: Teresa had asked to discuss who will be giving what reports at the meeting. Marsha will be leading the meeting. *She will ask Laura (SAG) and David if they would like to give brief reports. Other brief reports will be given by Kurt, Sallie,

Jan, Crystal and Sabine. Teresa asked if everyone can send her a copy of their notes so she has them for backup for the Minutes of the Annual Meeting. Teresa will lead the election of Board candidates, explaining who the new candidates are, and who are the remaining Board members.

REQUEST FROM ALLEN: Allen had brought our attention to a news account about a historic African American church in Marshall VA that had been recently vandalized. He was wondering if we could do something to help, possibly a fundraising concert. Sabine asked Allen if he had talked with the other musicians and David about it, and he said he would. The Board discussed it and decided that we could not do that right now, but we could let the choir know how they could make donations. *Sabine will contact Allen to tell him this and ask him if he would like to bring it up at rehearsal during Joys and Concerns.

AWARDS: In the past, the Board has awarded Certificates of Appreciation or other expressions of gratitude to members and others who have been particularly helpful during the year. The following people were recommended for certificates: Kim, for her help with the Search Committee, the programs for the Spring concert, and the 30th Anniversary concert; Sallie, for her work on all the ArtsFairfax grants; Laura R, for her work with SAG, and the Tema choir; Nikki, for providing leadership training workshops for GenOut; and Jane Cruz, for her work as secretary for SAG (and offering to continue that virtually even though she is moving to NY). *Marsha said she would make the certificates and give them out near the end of the Annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.