

**UTAH SYMPHONY | UTAH OPERA**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**MAY 23, 2017**  
**MINUTES**

**Attended:** Jesselie Anderson, Doyle Arnold, Dick Baringer, Howard Clark, John D'Arcy, Mark Davidson (musician), David Dee, Kristen Fletcher, Kem Gardner, Tom Jacobson, Annette Jarvis, Frank Joklik, Tyler Kruzich, Tom Love, Paul Meecham, Bill Nelson, Ted Newlin, Dee O'Donnell, Dinesh Patel, Shar Quinney, Carol Radinger (Utah Symphony Guild), Pat Richards, Diane Stewart, Lissa Stolz (musician), Naoma Tate, Judy Vander Heide (OOG), Bob Wheaton, and Kim Wilson attended in person from the Elected, Ex-officio and Lifetime Boards. Joanne Shiebler attended the meeting via teleconference.

Auxiliary board members and guests present included: Sandy McOmbler (Trustee Emeriti), Tony Middleton (Honorary Board), Robert Fudge (OSBA president-elect), Anjeanette Jacobs, Allen Kimball, Emily Kunz, Margaret Sargent (USG president-elect), Ted Schmidt, David Utrilla, Ralph Vander Heide, and Greg Walz. Staff members and musicians present included: Natalie Cope, Jeff Counts, John Eckstein, Thierry Fischer, Paula Fowler, David Green, Paul Hill, Steve Hogan, Lance Jensen, Kyleene Johnson, Yuki MacQueen, Christopher McBeth, Faith Myers, Leslie Peterson, Michelle Peterson, Jennifer Rhodes, Nina Richards, Aaron Sain, Kate Throneburg, Toby Tolokan, and Caitlyn Valovik Moore. Julie McBeth was present to record the minutes.

**I. Welcome:** Board of Trustees Vice Chair Bill Nelson welcomed elected, lifetime, honorary, and emeriti trustees, as well as guests to the meeting. He introduced David Utrilla who was joining the meeting as a candidate for election to the board. He recognized ex-officio board representative transitions for the Utah Symphony Guild (Margaret Sargent replacing Carol Radinger) and Ogden Symphony Ballet Association (Dr. Robert Fudge replacing Paul Kunz).

**II. Haiti Service Project Presentation:** USUO President & CEO Paul Meecham introduced Utah Symphony musicians John Eckstein and Yuki MacQueen who had been invited to speak on a panel at the League of American Orchestras Conference about the outreach service project they organized in Haiti. He continued that he will be moderating the panel which would be exploring several socially-conscious musician-initiated projects that had recently emerged in the orchestra community. Mr. Eckstein and Ms. MacQueen shared videos, photos, and personal anecdotes about their experiences mentoring the young musicians of Haiti, who were extremely eager for quality music-making opportunities despite, or perhaps because of, having so few comforts of life that many of us take for granted. They thanked the musicians who volunteered their time to serve the project, the staff who facilitated fundraising to provide transportation and housing to the young musicians who benefited, and the many board members who contributed and helped spread the promote the project.

**III. Musicians' Report:** Musician Representative Lissa Stolz shared that as she thought about how to describe an entire season with so many varied musical experiences she realized the unifying element of each week was this wonderful ensemble of musician colleagues playing with great passion and effort while always striving to achieve better and more beautiful sounds. Musician Representative Mark Davidson reflected on the evolution of the orchestra, which still includes musicians who worked with Maurice Abravanel but also a number of newer musicians like himself, and the synergy that happens as they all come together under Thierry Fischer's vision and leadership. Ms. Stolz and Mr. Davidson both noted the revelation of observing the work of the board at these meetings and thanked the board members for the effort and energy they expend on behalf of the organization.

**IV. Utah Opera Report:** Utah Opera Artistic Director Christopher McBeth shared highlights from the 2016-17 season including patron-lauded performances, record ticket sales, a few last-minute indigestion-producing artist adjustments, and a particularly-moving contemporary opera that highlighted the difficulties of returning from war in a way that brought together a varied audience of veterans, young musicians, and regular opera patrons for an experience of shared understanding that will remain with all of them. He thanked the board members and donors present for their support that allows Utah Opera to bring our community together through great performances.

**V. Finance Committee Report:** VP of Finance and CFO Steve Hogan reported that the previous fiscal year's audit was completed and approved by the board in December 2016 and shared that, because of \$1.6 million in special project funding and a ticket sales increase of 9%, the result was a small surplus before depreciation for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

**VI. Board Chair Report:** Mr. Nelson noted that Dave Petersen was traveling for business and unable to join the meeting in person, but had recorded a video message. In the video message Mr. Petersen shared highlights from his three-year term as chair and thanked the board members, musicians, and staff for their participation and role in all of the organization's successes.

**VII. CEO Report:** Mr. Meecham shared his appreciation that the company had been so well stewarded by his predecessors, Melia Tourangeau and Pat Richards, and by a committed board of trustees and a skilled, hard-working staff prior to his joining last July. He noted that this allowed him the luxury of beginning his tenure with a 'listening tour' with staff, orchestra, and board, which was an excellent introduction to the people, work, and pride of this organization. He highlighted priorities of the organizational plan guiding the current and upcoming years and thanked the many people and institutions that support the inspirational music-making of USUO with time, talent, and treasure.

**VIII. Utah Symphony Report:** Utah Symphony Music Director Thierry Fischer expressed gratitude for the incredible efforts of the musicians to prepare for a season of challenging pieces and to continue to excel in their music-making through great motivation. He shared highlights of the season and noted with pride the high quality of guest conductors who are eager to work with this fine ensemble and to return as soon as possible for future engagements. He thanked the board members and the committed staff for supporting the success of the orchestra on stage.

**IX. Musical Selection:** Utah Symphony musicians Caitlyn Valovick Moore, Lissa Stolz, and Jennifer Rhodes introduced their musical backgrounds and performed a woodwind trio.

**X. Other Business / Executive Session:** Mr. Nelson asked if there was any additional discussion before adjourning the Annual General Meeting and continuing with the May Board meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes Recorded by:

  
Julie McBeth

Minutes Approved by:

  
William H. Nelson