

UTAH SYMPHONY | UTAH OPERA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MAY 22, 2019
MINUTES

Attended: Jesselie Anderson, Doyle Arnold (via teleconference), Elizabeth Beilman (musician), David Dee, Kem Gardner, G. Frank Joklik, Stephen Tanner Irish, Andrew Larson (musician), Tom Love, Abigail Magrane, Paul Meecham, Robin Milne, Henriette Mohebbi (Utah Symphony Guild), Judy Moreton, Dinesh Patel, Gary Porter, Shari Quinney, Patricia Richards, Miguel Rovira, Joanne Shiebler, Naoma Tate, Jim Tozer, David Utrilla, and Kim Wilson attended from the Elected, Ex-officio and Lifetime Boards.

Auxiliary board members and guests present included: Carolyn Abravanel (Trustee Emeriti), Stefana Atlas, Doyle Clayburn (USG President Elect), Thomas and Joanne Coppin, Liz de Forest, , Morgan Irvin (Upbeat Society), Tom Klassen, Melissa Klein (Onstage Ogden), Neylan McBaine (Upbeat Society), Pam McComas, Edward Moreton (Trustee Emeriti), Byron Russell (ZAP), Greg Walz, and David Wirthlin.

Staff members and musicians present included: Carol Anderson, Melanie Ashkar, Robert Bosworth, Conner Covington, Olivia Custodio, Annie Farnsworth, Thierry Fischer, David Green, Steve Hogan, Lance Jensen, Kyleene Johnson, Grace Kahl, Addison Marlor, Christopher McBeth, Jon Miles, Jesús Murillo, Faith Myers, Nikki Orlando, Leslie Peterson, Jessica Proctor, Kathleen Sykes, Toby Tolokan, Heather Weinstock, and Brooke Yadon. Julie McBeth was present to record the minutes

I. Welcome: Board of Trustees Chair Kem Gardner welcomed elected, lifetime, honorary, and emeriti trustees, as well as guests to the meeting. He recognized the ex-officio board representative transition for the Utah Symphony Guild and asked Henriette to introduce her successor. Ms. Mohebbi thanked the board members for their support of the guild and introduced Doyle Clayburn, who will serve as president of the Utah Symphony Guild and represent it as an ex-officio member of the USUO Board of Trustees beginning in September.

Mr. Gardner expressed appreciation for Thierry's and the orchestra's participation in the initiatives of Zions Forever to celebrate the 100th year of Zion National Park and raise funds to improve the infrastructure of the park to more effectively manage increased visitors.

II. Musicians' Report: Musician Representatives Elizabeth Beilman and Andrew Larson recognized the efforts of board and staff members that make it possible for USUO to achieve its mission to connect the community through great live music. They particularly highlighted the work of USUO Director of Operations Cassandra Dozet, Stage Manager Chip Dance and the crew that works with him, Associate Conductor Conner Gray Covington, and the front of house staff who directly interact with the audience.

III. Utah Symphony Report: Utah Symphony Music Director Thierry Fischer noted a few standout points of the creatively satisfying 2018-19 season, including collaborations with Utah Opera in *Candide* and *The Magic Flute*, continued recordings and the gratifying international attention reviews are garnering for the excellence of the orchestra, and the successful debut of the Composer in Association initiative. He concluded with his reflections on the Adopt-a-School program he was privileged to conduct with Cottonwood High School during the year and the pleasure of sharing musical and philosophical ideas with these young people who were so open and interested in learning.

IV. Utah Opera Report: Utah Opera Artistic Director Christopher McBeth shared highlights from the 2018-19 season noting ways company vision initiatives of social relevance, family-friendly events, heightened musical quality, and creative use of technology were achieved. He thanked the board members for their support to make the memorable season happen.

V. Finance Committee Report: VP of Finance and CFO Steve Hogan reported that the 2017-18 audit was completed and approved by the board in an earlier meeting and talked through categories of income and expenses noting a small surplus before depreciation for the 6th year in a row.

VI. Board Chair Report: Mr. Gardner expressed that he could share nothing more compelling than a balanced budget and yielded to the next speaker.

VII. CEO Report: Mr. Meecham thanked staff for their dedication and expertise, the musicians and artists of Utah Symphony and Utah Opera for performing at the highest level, and the board for their guidance, support, and commitment. He singled out Mr. Gardner for his leadership of the board for two years and as a pillar of the community for many decades and invited a round of applause for his incredible support of the organization.

Mr. Meecham reported on progress of a number of initiatives including: growing earned revenues (increased from 25% to 35% of total budget over the past 5 years); attracting families (utilizing family-priced ticket packages, earlier start times for selected performances, family-friendly programming); developing new audiences (launching UNWOUND concert format, Hispanic and Latino Communities Outreach Task Force, and a new series at UVU's Noorda Center for the Performing Arts); and increasing awareness of USUO's statewide education programs through leaflets distributed during the legislative session as well as the media attention garnered by Maestro Fischer's Adopt-a-School project. He concluded his report with a short video highlighting the impact of the Adopt-a-School project, viewable at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWOXCbn8W4o&t=2s>.

VIII. Musical Selection: Mr. McBeth shared that Utah Opera commissioned, with help from a grant from the Utah Division of Arts and Museums, four 10-minute operas related to the building of the transcontinental railroad in observance of the state's Spike 150 commemoration. He noted that all four operas had received performances in community spaces in Brigham City, Ogden, and Salt Lake City and introduced the Utah Opera Resident Artists who performed one of the operas, titled *No Ladies in the Lady's Book*, for the board members and annual meeting guests.

IX. Other Business: Mr. Gardner opened the floor to any additional discussion or questions 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:


Kem C. Gardner, Chairman