

UTAH SYMPHONY | UTAH OPERA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2020
MINUTES

Attended via video or teleconference: Julie Aiken Hansen, Jesselie B. Anderson, Doyle Arnold, Judith Billings, Steven Brosvik, John D’Arcy, David Dee, Julie Edwards (musician), Kem Gardner, Brian Greeff, Stephen Tanner Irish, Thomas Jacobson, G. Frank Joklik, Andrew Larson (musician), Tom Love, Robin Milne, Judy Moreton, Dinesh Patel, Dave Petersen, Frank Pignanelli, Nancy Pinto-Orton (Onstage Ogden), Gary Porter, Shari Quinney, Patricia A. Richards, Miguel Rovira, Joanne Shiebler, Naoma Tate, Astrid Tuminez, Kelly Ward, Kim Wilson, Thomas Wright, and Henry Wurts attended from the Elected, Ex-officio and Lifetime Boards.

Guests present in the videoconference included: Shane Stowell (board candidate) and Ken Verdoia (ZAP representative).

Staff members present in the videoconference included: Thierry Fischer, David Green, Steve Hogan, Christopher McBeth, Jon Miles, Leslie Peterson, and Toby Tolokan. Julie McBeth was present to record the minutes and Heather Weinstock was present for logistical support.

The meeting was live streamed to YouTube where donors, subscribers, and additional staff and musicians were invited to observe.

I. Welcome: Board of Trustees Chair Tom Love welcomed trustees and guests to the meeting. He introduced Ken Verdoia, representing the ZAP Tier I Advisory Board, and Nancy Pinto-Orton, the new president of the Onstage Ogden board of directors who would represent that organization as an ex-officio member of the USUO Board of Trustees for the coming year. Mr. Love invited each of them to share a little about themselves and their roles.

Mr. Love noted it was his honor to serve as USUO Board Chair, about to begin year number two in that role which felt like year number 10 with all that had happened in the last 6 months. He introduced USUO’s newly elected President & CEO Steven Brosvik and asked him to address the meeting participants. Mr. Brosvik shared that he and his family were looking forward to moving to Utah later in the month, once he had completed his transition work at his current position with the Nashville Symphony and closed on their new house. He noted his eagerness to begin work full time with USUO beginning August 17.

II. Artistic Reports: Utah Symphony Music Director Thierry Fischer noted the thousands of lives which had been transformed over the past several months by the pandemic personally and in business, including the arts, where everyone was now struggling to achieve what we all previously took for granted, which was to work with passion to animate, elevate, inspire, and motivate our communities. He observed that the electronic means through which people had been able to remain connected were remarkable, but that the organization’s ultimate responsibility was to create live music in its venues for the patrons who had continued their support even when performances were not possible. He provided an overview of the types of programming that would be included in revised concerts in the fall, the details of which would be announced by early September along with performer and audience safety protocols.

Utah Opera Artistic Director Christopher McBeth shared that circumstances of the past several months had allowed more time for reflection than he would typically have had and remarked on the coincidence of life imitating the art of the two opera productions that were presented prior to the shut-down dictated

by the pandemic. He shared his pride that, even in the necessitated shortened state, the 2019-20 Utah Opera season showed the art form's power and resonance to reflect the human condition. He noted that the October 2020 opera would be changed from Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* to a pair of short operas that would better meet safety protocols for artists and audience. He concluded that in the 400 hundred years that the art form of opera has been part of human society, there had been more than 100 recorded epidemics and, in spite of the challenges that have previously befallen society and the arts, USUO was still around and as important as it had ever been and would continue to be.

USUO VP of Marketing and Public Relations Jon Miles thanked Mr. Fischer and Mr. McBeth for their inspiring words and added that the arts were an important part of society's economic recovery and the emotional healing that people needed to experience together. He provided an update on the Deer Valley® Music Festival, sharing that most of the artists originally scheduled for the cancelled 2020 season were booked for 2021 dates thanks to the hard work of VP of Symphony Artistic Planning Toby Tolokan. He presented the confirmed dates and artists for the 2021 season concerts, which were already on sale. He shared an anticipation that, assuming it would be safe to sell at full capacity while keeping artists, staff, and audience safe, the 2021 festival should have record-breaking attendance and ticket sales.

Musician Representatives Andrew Larson relayed that in the months leading up to the March 12, 2020 shutdown, the musicians of the Utah Symphony were experiencing a steady stream of artistic growth, with bold challenges each week for the musicians, led by Thierry Fischer and the line-up of guest conductors. He noted that since the shutdown, momentum was being reconfigured and shared that, while being placed on furlough was difficult, it had not weakened the musicians' resolve to adapt and grow. He highlighted a few of the special video projects that had been organized, produced, and distributed by the musicians of their own accord while on furlough and shared that, as a result, the DNA of the musicians' range of abilities was becoming better known to the organization and community as a whole and should not go overlooked in the future. He acknowledged the calm and collected leadership demonstrated by Pat Richards and Tom Love during the crisis and congratulated them along with Brian Greeff and the CEO Search Committee for the commendable and bold move to continue the process to identify a new leader. He noted that the musicians looked forward to working with Mr. Brosvik to move USUO toward an even better standing as a broader community asset. He concluded that the 2020-21 season would provide an opportunity for USUO to shine bright for the community, and that it was a time to grow a stronger identity and extended audience rapport to carry through the crisis toward a vibrant future. Musician Representative Julie Edwards thanked Mr. Larson for his superb representation of the sentiments of the musicians and echoed his appreciation for the leadership of Ms. Richards and Mr. Love.

Interim CEO Report: Interim President & CEO Patricia A. Richards shared that throughout the year, which turned out to be like no other, the staff, musicians, and board members had all stepped into their roles and beyond. She expressed appreciation to everyone for believing in the value of the organization, in the importance of the music it offers to the community, and in the need to make every effort to reopen safely and to reinforce USUO's value in bringing solace, healing, and inspiration through live music. She noted that while the future was still uncertain due to the pandemic and economic recovery, USUO had the advantage of optimism from leadership, of a can-do, problem-solving attitude that guides its efforts, and from the fresh thinking that new CEO, Steve Brosvik, would bring to the organization. She shared her hope for the future of USUO: that everyone in attendance recognize the fragility of the arts and redouble efforts to support and to advocate for USUO to ensure that it survives and thrives, no matter how long it took to get back to some sense of normalcy; that the organization would use the crisis as an opportunity for reflection and for reinvention; and that it would experiment and deepen the ways in which USUO would connect with our community through education, through performance, through service, and

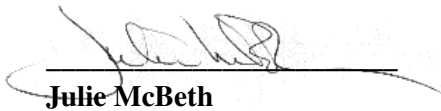
through inclusion. She concluded with her ultimate aspiration that USUO would use this moment in history to reach out and make itself more relevant, more accessible, and more essential as, in new ways, the people of USUO would help guide the community through this difficult passage.

Mr. Love led a standing ovation in recognition of and gratitude for Ms. Richards' leadership and service to the organization. He affirmed that USUO could play a vital role in helping to heal the community. He noted his pride to work with everyone on the board, the musicians, staff members, and everyone associated with the organization. He invited Mr. Brosvik to share closing thoughts as the new CEO of the organization.

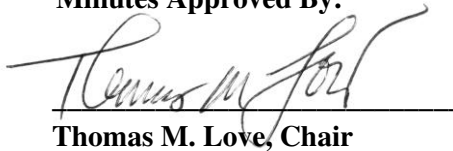
Mr. Brosvik shared that hearing the presentations at the meeting provided a glimpse into what he observed during the search process that made the position so compelling as he and his wife Cassandra considered the move. He noted specifically, the great intention, the focus on the music, the mission of the organization, and the desire and urge to get USUO's musicians back on stage and serving our community. He relayed his hope that everyone participating in the meeting was hearing all of this, taking it in, and understanding the work ahead, the work that has been done this year and years prior, and the incredible commitment of the organization to get the musicians back on stage, and to continue the service and work that we have to do. He expressed that he was really looking forward to getting to know everyone involved with USUO on an individual basis and to working together to make the organization even greater than it was currently.

III. Other Business: Mr. Love opened the floor to any additional discussion or questions before adjourning the Annual General Meeting and continuing with the August Board meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes Recorded By:


Julie McBeth

Minutes Approved By:


Thomas M. Love, Chair