

UTAH SYMPHONY | UTAH OPERA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2026
MINUTES

Attended in person: Steven Brosvik, John D'Arcy, David Dee, Barry Eden, Jason Englund, Jonathan Freedman, Brandon Fugal, Marie Gochnour Gardner, Brian Greeff, Dennis Hranitzky, Stephen Irish, Annette Jarvis, Andrew Keller (musician), Abbie Lowder, Judy Moreton, Jennifer Price-Wallin, Pat Richards, Miguel Rovira, Stan Sorensen, Lissa Stolz (musician), Clint Stone, Shane Stowell, Jim Tozer, David Utrilla, Sharlene Wells, Curtis Woodbury (Associate Board), and Henry Wurts attended from the Elected, Ex-officio, and Lifetime Boards.

Attended via videoconference: Larry Brownstein, Paul Burdiss, George Cardon-Bystry, Christina Myers (Onstage Ogden), and Joanne Shiebler.

Elected and Lifetime Board members not available to participate: Stewart Barlow, Gary Crocker, Luz Escamilla, Kem Gardner, Jon Huntsman Jr., Tom Jacobson, Frank Joklik, Tom Love, Derek Miller, David Mortensen, Scott Parker, Dinesh Patel, Dave Petersen, Frank Pignanelli, Gary Porter, Shar Quinney, Harris Simmons, Aaron Starks, Tom Thatcher, Don Willie, Kim Wilson, and Thomas Wright.

Staff and guests present: Jeffrey Andreasen, Jane & Kim Blair, Charles Boynton, Yolanda Bunderson, Brian & Emma Casper, Stephanie Chee, Kathryn Eberle, Calli Forsyth, Fan Goh, Keith Guernsey, Ellesse Hargreaves, David Hodges, Steve Hogan, Julia Holoman, Ben Kipp, Tom Klassen, Meredith Kimball Laing, Samantha Lange, Kelly Lewis, Micah Luce, Hillary Marquardson, Caitlin Marshall, Katherine & Sheldon Marumoto, Christopher McBeth, Julie McBeth, Todd McKinnon and Tanner Rasmussen (Tanner LLC, through item III), Aaron McKone, Fiona McGowan, Janice Mensink, Garrett Murphy, Kevin Nakatani, Leslie Peterson, Michelle Peterson, Lisa Poppleton, Marisa Schwartz, Jen Shark, Rodney Sharp II, Toby Simmons, Kerry Smith, Natty Taylor, Amber Tuckness, Farrah Valdez, Sally & Anthony Wakefield, Jaelee Watanabe, Lori Wike, and Carol Wood.

Staff and guests via video conference: Amelia England, Genevieve Gannon, Amanda Lowry, Katie Swainston, and Gregory Walz.

I. Welcome: Board of Trustees Chair Annette Jarvis welcomed the board members, donors, musicians, and staff to the Annual General Meeting and thanked those who also attended the 5th Grade Concert prior to the meeting to observe one of USUO's longest-running education initiatives benefitting Utah's students and teachers.

II. CEO report: President & CEO Steve Brosvik expressed gratitude for the role that board members, donors, musicians, and staff had played in the work of USUO to connect our community through great live music. He noted financial safeguards that allowed USUO to invest in marketing to rebuild audiences post-pandemic, and shared that over the 23-25 fiscal years, USUO ticket sales and fundraising had increased over 27%. He reported that the USUO endowment was approximately \$47 million and noted conversations with potential contributors about the need to increase it to at least \$100 million.

Mr. Brosvik shared that many decisions remained as the design teams for the Salt Palace Convention Center, Maurice Abravanel Hall, and Utah Museum of Contemporary Art worked together to resolve the challenge of rebuilding the convention center on one fewer city blocks than it previously inhabited. He added that resolution of the design direction for the Salt Palace would have significant impact on rebuilding the backstage of Abravanel Hall. He explained that the county planned to rebuild the backstage

of the hall as well as heating and air conditioning systems as part of the adjacent segment of a cross-block connection called The Paseo in the Sports, Entertainment, Culture, and Convention District. He noted that in addition to that work, USUO hoped to help update the building to enhance the audience experience, comfort, and safety in order to set up the venue for success into the next 50-100 years.

Mr. Brosvik reported that Deer Valley Resort was focusing on the development of its East Village and a new lodge at the top of the mountain while working through design and approval processes for contemplated work at Snow Park Lodge. He noted that the 2026 Deer Valley® Music Festival should not be affected by that potential work and shared that festival programming would be announced in March and would include two weeks with Music Director Designate Markus Poschner. He continued that USUO would also embark on a two-week state tour at the beginning of the 2026 summer season to coincide with celebrations for America 250. He thanked sponsors, including the Utah State Legislature, for their financial support of the tour, which would include free concerts in community outdoor spaces throughout the state.

III. Audit report: Audit Committee Chair John D’Arcy shared that the purpose of the committee was to review the audit and to make sure there were no issues between the staff and the auditors. He relayed that the USUO finance team worked closely with Tanner Company LLC over the period of several weeks and noted several meetings of the committee prior to their approved release of the audited financials for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2025. He introduced Tanner Company representatives Todd McKinnon and Tanner Rasmussen. Mr. McKinnon reported that he and his associates issued a clean opinion on the audited financial statements prepared by the organization. He added that Tanner Company was independent from USUO and did not encounter any difficulties working with the organization’s finance team or Audit Committee. Mr. Rasmussen noted one general recommendation of timely communication regarding pledges and contributions with the finance department to help determine proper accounting of exchange type transactions. They offered to answer any questions, none followed.

IV. Education and Community Engagement: USUO VP of Education and Community Engagement Ben Kipp noted that there was no other performing arts organization that served the people of their state the way that USUO had or whose education programs were supported as well as USUO’s were. He recognized the vision of Maurice Abravanel and Glade Peterson to ensure that education and statewide service were as much a part of the history of Utah Symphony and Utah Opera as mainstage performances, and noted the 26-year tenure of his predecessor Paula Fowler who, along with many others, had carried out their vision.

Mr. Kipp explained how USUO’s education and community engagement lived at the crossroads of four pillars: artistic excellence, educational access, statewide trust, and long-term audience development. He highlighted a brief history of USUO’s 80 years of statewide education initiatives culminating in a current legislative appropriation of \$6.2 million annually to 15 arts organizations, helping USUO’s impact in the state reach far beyond the people attending its performances. He added that many individuals and foundations directed their contributed support of USUO to its education programs (about 1/3 of contributed revenue) and thanked those donors for their support.

Mr. Kipp presented a series of overlaying maps showing each school or community that USUO visited between FY23 and FY25 and noted an over 90% market penetration (borrowing business terminology). He shared that the average age of students’ first interaction with USUO was 10 years old and noted that 21% of the students served by USUO education programs came from rural areas. He introduced the Utah Opera Resident Artists who annually present more than 150 school performances in addition to their mainstage performances with USUO. The Resident Artists performed a 15-minute excerpt from their *Who Wants to Be an Opera Star?* assembly for the meeting participants.

Mr. Kipp noted the importance of USUO's relationship with educators and shared that it had served more than 4600 teachers in the previous academic year. He invited USUO Associate Concertmaster Kathryn Eberle and Cottonwood High School Director of Instrumental Music Amber Tuckness to share observations. Ms. Eberle conveyed the pride she took in being part of an organization that placed such a strong emphasis on introducing young people to classical music, and noted the amazement expressed by musician colleagues from other organizations when they learned how many Utah students were annually served by USUO's programs. She relayed a few highlights from personal interactions with Utah's students and teachers. Ms. Tuckness noted that it was her 29th year teaching at Cottonwood High School and shared the impact of a number of USUO programs from which her students had benefitted through the years, including their Sympop Music Club (the largest club of any type at CHS with 140 members) that attended Utah Symphony and Utah Opera performances as a group. She expressed appreciation for USUO education staff members through the years who had sought feedback from educators to improve the program offerings to schools.

Mr. Kipp proposed some ways that USUO might, with additional resources, turn from episodic to embedded relationships with Utah students and schools, providing deeper engagement with music-making, enhanced wellness through music, and community enrichment through connection.

V. Adjourn: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. Guests were invited to remain for the February Board Meeting that directly followed.

Minutes Recorded By:

Julie McBeth

Minutes Approved By:

Board vote at May 11, 2026 meeting