

The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc.

Winter General Meeting, Tuesday, February 19, 2019

The Winter General Meeting took place at the Bonterra Restaurant, 1829 Cleveland Avenue, Charlotte, at 11:30 am. Lunch was served.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Rutledge at 12:00.

**Introduction of Guests:**

Mike Rutledge introduced luncheon guest Mary Deissler, President and CEO of the Charlotte Symphony.

He then introduced the special guest Christopher James Lees, Resident Conductor of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Lees spoke about the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra program. There have been auditions for seating within the orchestra, and there will be auditions for entry into the orchestra. The youth orchestra will play a side by side concert with Charlotte Symphony members on May 4, 2019. A Charlotte Symphony Youth Philharmonic cellist, a middle schooler, is interested in conducting and is assisting her school orchestra conductor. Conductor Lees is giving opportunities for orchestra members to learn about conducting. A number of youth orchestra members will be performing at houses on the Heart of the Home Tour on March 22 and 23.

Debbie Abels, VP of Membership, welcomed the new members of the Guild who were at the luncheon. Each member told the group a little about herself. The members were: Michelle Hamilton (rejoined), Susan Allemeier, Jin Wang, Deborah Aitken, and Robin Federsen. New members who were not at the luncheon were also named: Stacy and Adam Marino and Arthur Boote. Sus Sterling, guest of Susan Carr and Robin Cochran, was also introduced.

Because Mike Rutledge had to return to work, Past President Linda Weisbruch chaired the remainder of the meeting.

The minutes of the Fall 2018 General Meeting were e-mailed to members prior to the meeting. Susan Carr made the motion to approve those minutes, which was seconded by Cookie Parnell. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Susan Carr**

- January was a good month for the Guild, with net income totaling \$7,000. Revenues came in at \$8,200, led by \$7,000 of income from the Heart of the Home Tour.
- Looking at our results this far in FY 2019, total revenues were slightly more than \$27,000 and expenses totaled nearly \$14,000, resulting in net income of \$13,120.
- Our largest expense is Payroll at \$6,000, followed by Tour expenses of \$3,650 and Administrative costs of \$2,650.
- Our checking account balance at Wells Fargo is \$52,391.
- Our back-up Operating Reserve held at Vanguard totals \$34,812.
- Our Enrichment Endowment totals \$56,393, of which nearly \$42,000 is held at Vanguard and \$14,500 is at Wells Fargo. Of this total, \$7500 is made up of earnings on the Endowment.
- In January, we used \$1,024 of Endowment earnings to set up a fund to support the Musical Petting Zoo. \$208 of this fund was spent in January. \$816 remains in the MPZ Restricted Fund.

Carol Follmer moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Sharon Lacy seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

**Education Report – Linda Weisbruch, VP Education**

The Youth Orchestras – Youth Orchestra (senior) Youth Philharmonic (junior)

1. Northwest School of the Arts is now home base for the CSYO/CSYP rehearsals and concerts

2. CSYO performed a prelude concert for the CSO at the Belk, and the CSYP will do so Mar 16
3. Other concerts: CSYO/CSYP Mar 12 NWSA 7:00p, side-by-side with the CSO May 4 2:30p at NWSA, and the final concert on May 18 at Knight at 3p

#### Young Artists Competition

1. We have begun work to revitalize Young Artists Competition to better reflect our collaboration with the CSO, and utilize best practices from other orchestras around the country.
2. We will expand our understanding of current formats and trends, including technology to introduce rounds of competition and revamp the major time commitment for our judges. We have formed a YAC exploratory committee, including seasoned and new Guild members, Aram Bryan CSYO manager and Christopher James Lees, the CSO Resident Conductor

#### Musical Petting Zoo

1. Thanks to Larry Bennett, and our Zoo mentor Julia Church, we have held six Zoos, including two at ImaginOn, two for the CSO Family Series concerts and at ASC Cultural Day. We have two more Family Series concerts on Feb 23 and Mar 23, with another ImaginOn on Apr 13
2. Our zoos now have real storage, one with the CSO and one close by to our Guild storage unit.
3. We could really use your help volunteering. It is fun, rewarding, and gets you out of the house! Please sign up by visiting our website for a link to the Sign Up Genius

Speaking of volunteers,

We are launching three Sign Up Geniuses in the next few days to include:

1. Youth Orchestra Concerts
2. Youth Orchestra Rehearsals
3. Youth Orchestra Auditions

All Guild members and YO parents who have indicated they would like to help will be included in the eblast.

#### **Management and Planning – Elizabeth Connor Stewart, VP M&P**

- The mission statement has been updated by the Membership Committee and the Board of Directors. Policy and Procedure will meet to make sure it conforms with The Guild's Bylaws.
- Richard McKnight, Chair of Budget and Finance, will hold a meeting to finalize the budget
- The new storage unit for the Petting Zoo instruments is being paid for at this time by a grant from the Enrichment Endowment. The PZ storage unit is at the same facility as the Guild's main unit, and storing the instruments in a separate unit provides better access for both the instruments and the supplies stored in the main unit.
- The Guild purchased a new phone for our employee Victoria Gilmore. It works better and makes her job much easier.

#### **Membership – Debbie Abels, VP Membership**

- Debbie explained how the Membership area is operating this year by committee, which shares the responsibilities of the membership area.
- The committee is looking at why people join The Guild and how to keep its members.

- It suggested updating the Mission Statement, which has been accomplished. The Guild's mission is to support the Charlotte Symphony with both financial help and volunteer help.
- It is researching the ways in which volunteers can help the CSO and is almost finished redefining those ways.
- It is looking at the membership levels and the benefits at each level before it is time for member renewal.
- They have designed and produced a new membership brochure and also a volunteer opportunity brochure.
- They are looking at possible rewards for volunteers.
- Debbie asked Guild members to please fill out the survey for preferences for communications from The Guild.

Musical Petting Zoo Chair Larry Bennett spoke of the need for volunteers at the Petting Zoo events. There is an appearance at a CSO Family Concert on March 23, but anyone helping at the Petting Zoo that day can also work on the Heart of the Home Tour Friday night or Saturday afternoon that weekend.

#### **Fundraising – Robin Cochran, VP Fundraising**

- Robin spoke briefly of the Heart of the Home tour, the dates March 22 6:00 TO 9:00 PM and March 23 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This tour and the party and auction that precede it are the only fundraisers that the Guild will sponsor this year.
- Robin introduced Carol Follmer, a member of the steering committee and Chair of Operations. Carol spoke about the tour plans with 5 beautiful houses: 3934 Huntcliff Drive, 5916 St. John Lane, 2421 Westfield Road, 675 Hempstead Place, and 2428 Vail Avenue. Each house will serve tastings of a different alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink on Friday night and tastings of different chefs' preparations during the day on Saturday.
- Carol spoke of the need for volunteers to fill the following positions: Set Up hosts/hostesses to help the Site Captains set up the houses and hosts/hostesses to welcome guests during the tour and explain interesting features of each house. Debbie Abels and the Membership committee will hand out volunteer sheets during lunch, and members are asked to sign up to work at least one shift in some capacity during the tour or during the Taste of the Tour Party, which will take place at Ferguson's on March 14.
- Volunteers are needed to canvas merchants and service providers to donate items or services to the Taste of the Tour auction. Sallie Moody can help anyone who is willing to volunteer in this capacity.

Tammy Matula moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Susan Carr seconded the motion. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:45.