

**MINUTES**  
**BELLINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (BSO)**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023**  
**REMOTE / MBT ENCORE ROOM**

<b><u>Present:</u></b>		<b><u>Excused:</u></b>	<b><u>Absent:</u></b>	<b><u>Guest:</u></b>
Corey Welch, <i>President</i>	Yaniv Attar, <i>Music Director</i>		Sandra Payton, <i>Player Representative</i>	
Charli Daniels, <i>Vice President</i>	Deborah Arthur, <i>Director</i>		James Ray, <i>Director</i>	
Mark Tomko, <i>Secretary</i>	Barry Meyers, <i>Director</i>			
Gena Mikkelsen, <i>Treasurer</i>	Garland Richmond, <i>Director</i>			
Eileen Brownell, <i>Exec Director</i>	Barbara Ryan, <i>Director</i>			
Carol Comeau, <i>Past President</i>	Ted Schuman, <i>Director</i>			
Jim Quist, <i>Player Representative</i>				

**REPORTS REFERRED TO BELOW ARE POSTED TO THE SHARED DRIVE FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO MEETING.**

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>CALL TO ORDER and GREETINGS:</b>	Corey Welch, President, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement.
<b>SECRETARY'S REPORT:</b> Mark Tomko	The BSO Board reviewed the draft minutes for the July 5th, 2023, BOD meeting. <b>ACTION:</b> The board approved the minutes with corrections sent out prior to the meeting. Barbara Ryan moved to approve minutes as corrected and Carol Comeau seconded. Corrected minutes approved unanimously.
<b>TREASURER'S REPORT:</b> Gena Mikkelsen	See treasurer's report for details. Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ticketing came in for the concert just shy of expected.</li> <li>• Expenses for the organization were significantly less than expected.</li> <li>• Ended June about \$10 better than expected.</li> </ul> Gena presented a trend analysis over the year for development actuals versus budgeted, plus a 5 year comparison of donations. The key takeaway is that with current spending and development trends, we have approximately 4 years of cash reserves left.  From discussion: In reviewing calls to previous season ticket buyers, many people cited health or travel concerns, feeling that there was a preference to buy individual tickets. This is a trend in many orchestras. We make more money from individual tickets than from subscriptions.

<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS:</b> Eileen Brownell	<p>See reports and note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel updates</li> <li>• Signed temporary MBT contract with a 3% increase in rates and dates locked in</li> <li>• Held staff retreat</li> <li>• Hired Chris Morrison to write program notes; Eileen will do pre-concert talks</li> <li>• Tabled at several local events</li> <li>• Submitted Copland grant for \$25,000</li> <li>• Appendix lists New Years Eve Gala at the Bellwether Hotel, on NYE, with many arrangements to be handled by the hotel itself</li> </ul> <p>In discussion, the board passed a paper to sign up for standing committees. Discussion centered on how to build relationships and striking balance between face to face, written, and phone contacts.</p>
<b>STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:</b> A) Executive (C. Welch) B) Governance (C. Welch) C) Nominating (C. Welch) D) Strategic Planning (D. Arthur) E) Finance (G. Mikkelsen) F) Development (TBD) G) Youth and Community Engagement (C. Daniels) H) Artistic Planning (Y. Attar) I) Players (BSPA Chairperson) J) AEDI (TBD)	<p>See reports and note the following:</p> <p>A) B) C) D) E) F) G) . H) Artistic planning will be setting up a meeting soon I) Players' committee met and hopes to recruit more members; will give announcements at rehearsals J)</p>
<b>OLD BUSINESS:</b>	<p><b>Players' Committee Policies and Procedures: Corey Welch</b> The Players' Committee policies and procedures have been completed, formalized, and approved.</p> <p><b>Masking Guidelines: Corey Welch</b> Suggestions on the proposed guidelines were reviewed and integrated.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Garland Richmond moved to approve the updated guidelines. Charli Daniels seconded. The measure passed by unanimous voice vote.</p>
<b>NEW BUSINESS:</b>	<p><b>New Mount Baker Theater Contract: Corey Welch</b> We are gathering feedback on things we will want to negotiate for, such as term. Yaniv points out that Thom Mayes did an analysis and found that MBT was one of the most expensive halls in the state. Yaniv would like clearer language about dates and he would like them to promote us more visibly as their resident orchestra. We should ask that if they send surveys or requests for donations following up to one of our concerts, that they are clear about who the money is going to. Perhaps we should ask them not to fundraise off of our post concert surveys? Barry suggested we look at the indemnification clauses and review our insurance.</p> <p><b>Board Retreat: Corey Welch</b> Please fill out the survey regarding retreat planning. Corey will send the survey once more.</p> <p><b>Player Picnic: Corey Welch</b> We will plan for members to attend the player picnic on September 10th and help out. A sign-up sheet will be sent to board members.</p>

<b>SEASON EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:</b>	<b>Events: Corey Welch</b> Player Picnic - September 10th Board Retreat - September 17th
<b>CLOSING ADJOURNMENT:</b>	Meeting adjourned at 6:52 by unanimous voice vote
<b>NEXT MEETINGS AND CONCERTS:</b>	<b>Next Board Meeting:</b> September 6, 2023 at 5:30
<b>MINUTES APPROVAL:</b>	PENDING: Mark Tomko, BSO Board of Directors, Secretary attest and approves these minutes.