

# La Porte County Symphony Orchestra

## Board Meeting

September 13, 2006 6:30 PM at Symphony Center & Gallery 614 Lincolnway

Members present: Marcia Morris, Phil Bauman, Cheryl Ferguson, Tonya McGue, Leigh Morris, Sheryl Edwards, Ray Grivetti, John Spiggle, Kevin LeCavalier, Elizabeth Dekker, John Cannon, Jerry Huddleston, Joe Goepfrich, Kathleen Lang, V. Michael Drayton, Lee Rardin, Jo Fran Bendix, Meg Rodgers, Christine Ward

**Marcia Morris (Board President)** – Opened meeting 6:35 PM.

Minutes approved from July 2006 annual meeting. Motion: Sheryl Edwards/2<sup>nd</sup>: Jerry Huddleston - minutes approved.

### President's Report

- Cheryl Ferguson – new Executive Director is announced and introduced. Cheryl will begin Sept. 18, 2006
- Upcoming speaking dates: Sept. 19, 20. Reg. Arts Summit to accept grant from South Shore Arts – Sept. 29.
- Gift shop – obtaining sales counter, retail lic., credit card machine, new tentative Ph# 362-9020
- Educational grant written by Diana Ford was declined.
- Proposed conservatory collaboration with Jim Roselli was declined.

### Financial Report (Board Treasurer-Joe Goepfrich)

- Please see attached hand-out.
- August 2006 reports are not currently available.
- Noted that annual Unity Foundation (endowment account) statements come out in March. 5% of net annual earnings are applied to the endowment fund.
- Leigh Morris requested a footnote on the balance sheet that reflects the endowment balance.

### Musical Director's Report (Phil Bauman)

- Commented on the great Summer Concert Series!
- LCSO will not perform the "Nutcracker" for the NW Indiana Ballet, due to financial restraints on their behalf.
- Matt Nelson will be our "Chorus Master" for both the adult and children's choirs.
- Requested a liaison from the Board to the E.D. & facilitate getting info. Out into the community.
- 2006-07 Season – "Young Artist" winners will perform at the November and March concerts.
- "Artistic Committee" needs to meet soon to plan next year's season.
- Website – Phil needs text, bios, and photos submitted. Will call Joe Goepfrich for website assistance.

### Assistant Music Director's Report – none

### Executive Director's Report (Tonya McGue)

- Please see attached hand-out.
- Season ticket sales increased 53% between 2004-05 and 2005-06.
- Approved (unanimously) "Friends of the Symphony" fundraiser "Homes of Note" for 2007. Chairman TBA.

### Personnel/Operations Director's Report (Lee Rardin)

- Summer '06 contracts were sent and received. \$50 flat-fee per performance was paid to musicians.
- Logistics of Summer Concert Series went well. Purchased new speakers & microphones.
- 2006-07 Season contracts sent. Most have been returned. Noted: same group of musicians will comprise the LCSO, minimal date conflicts this year, set up/tear down help is in place, venues in place.
- Symphony Center & Gallery – will be on the "Heart of Art – Gallery & Artist Tour" October 14-15, 2006 - and this will be the first exhibit. Participating artists: Jo Fran Bendix, Merry Johnson, Bob Gilmore, Lee Rardin. LCCVB taped a public access T.V. segment of the SC&G (hosted by Lee Rardin) to be aired through October. 40% of sales from the SC&G will go back to the LCSO. Detailed artist's contracts will be required for participants at the SC&G. "Noteworthy Art" will be the subsequent show, featuring musicians, patrons, and "Friends".

### Public Relations (Christine Ward)

Included with the E.D.'s report.



### Committee Reports

- **Fund Development** (Leigh Morris) – letters to potential corporate sponsors have been mailed. Follow-up calls to be made by Sept. 29, 2006. Sponsorship levels denoted as follows:  
**Grand - \$10,000**  
**Platinum – 5,000**  
**Diamond - 3,000**  
**Gold - 1,000**  
**Silver - 500** \*Next Fund Dev. meeting Oct. 3 at 4 PM – Mayor’s office in La Porte –discuss endowments.
- **Children’s Concert** (Michael Drayton-Chairman) –**15<sup>th</sup> Annual** - Oct. 11, 2006 @ Civic Auditorium 9:30am, 11:10am, and 12:45pm. Admission \$1. Invitations sent several weeks ago, reservations are coming in. Michigan City schools may attend the 9:30am performance. Information packs/CD’s need to be sent.
- **Hoosier Star II** (Sheryl Edwards-Chairman) – The LCSO Board approved (unanimously) doing this benefit again. Committee plans to obtain \$15,000 from event sponsors. Obtain multiple individual sponsors. Tentative venue reservations at M.C. High School (seating cap. 980) and L.P. Civic Auditorium (seating cap. 1300) for June 23, 2007, including Tuesday, June 19 and Friday, June 22 rehearsal dates. Musicians and staff will be compensated. Dr. Charles Groves & Band will perform again.
- **Fall Benefit** (Elizabeth Dekker-Chairman) – “Mystery of the Missing Maestro” – Dinner/Auction/Mystery Whodunit - Oct. 28, 2006 @ Blue Chip Casino Grand Ballroom. Goal 200 patrons at \$75 per ticket. Tables of 8. Newcomb Printing doing 1700 invitations, plus posters, reply card/envelopes, tickets, program covers, information cards, thank-yous (all for \$700-800) to be sent Sept.22. Plans are coming together nicely.
- **Young Artist Competition** (Marcia Morris-Chairman) – Letters will be sent in Nov. 2006 to music instructors. Will set dates for auditions.

### Orchestra Representative Report (Jo Fran Bendix and Meg Rodgers)

None

### New Business – Introduce our 4 new LCSO Board Members

- John Spiggle
- Kevin LeCavalier
- Dan Rosen
- Shari Rosen

No other business.

### Dates to remember:

- October 11 – Children’s Concert
- October 13 – “Grand Opening” Symphony Center & Gallery (SC&G) 5 – 8 PM
- October 28 – Fall Benefit “Mystery of the Missing Maestro”
- **Next LCSO Board Meeting – November 8, 2006 - 6:30 @ SC&G**

Thank you,  
Christine Ward  
Secretary pro-tem