



## **New England Music Festival Association**

Executive Board Meeting

Zoom meeting December 12, 2020

10:00am

1. Call to Order: 10:04am
2. Roll Call: Marj Rooen, Lyvie Beyrent, Bill Sittard, Pam Rodgers, Sal Cicciarella, Steffen Parker, John Deeb, Edward Wilkin, Thomas Reynolds, Danielle Conerty, John Kuhner, and Rob Gattie.
3. Association Member Comments - None
4. Minutes August meeting on Google Docs – vote to accept. Steffen makes a motion to approve, Sal seconds.
5. Board Member Reports:
  - a. Executive Secretary/Treasurer – Bill Sittard - Checking balance is currently \$22,280.41. Investments are currently \$63,717.06. Thomas makes a motion to approve, Steffen seconds, all in favor.
  - b. Past President – Sal Cicciarella - Interested in seeing what happens with virtual festival.
  - c. President Elect – John Deeb, Concert Festival meeting and projected date of the on-line festival. Concerns about having a location for all files, cutting back on the emails, so everything can be in one place. Spoke about doing a virtual festival, where the students record their parts and submit to be made into a larger file. Also possibility about doing a masterclass, and conductors talking to the kids about the pieces at no cost to the students. Masterclasses would be opened to any kids who auditioned, not just the ones who were accepted.
  - d. Bulletin and Website/Virtual Festival – Tom Reynolds - Virtual festival at MIT was done by person in Moultonborough, NH for about \$800. Hopes that conductors this year would be asked to do it again next year, as a virtual festival is not the same as being live in person. Danielle asked questions about materials needed for virtual pieces,

such as click track and conductor videos. Discussion about combining band and orchestra to make this easier. Bill mentions that we have the funds to pay the conductors something, based on some schools not requesting refunds from last year's cancelled festival. Discussion about making the virtual festival worth while. Most students aren't thrilled about doing another virtual festival. Website has been easier to navigate.

- e. Solo & Ensemble Festival – Steffen Parker & Rob Gattie - Only lost one adjudicator due to audio vs. video recordings. Uninvited a few vocal adjudicators, due to lack of auditions, but all were ok with that, as they were overwhelmed already. Upload process is working well, a few didn't read directions and submitted video files. One recording was over 18 min long and the file was a little large. Steffen answered over 350 emails on Friday. Most have done solos, a few have done with accompaniment. Eddie asks if this has been more or less work. Rob says nothing has changed on his side, but on Steffen's side he is doing a lot of work. Asks about a gift to Steffen for the additional work he has had to do. Steffen interjects and says that he sends an invoice to Bill with fee for server. Further discussion about the upload button going dead at 5:01pm tonight and if late submissions come in they should email Steffen or Rob.
  - f. Librarian – Frank Whitcomb - None.
  - g. Chorus Manager – Eddie Wilkins - Is the conductor on board for online Festival? Eddie says that his conductor hasn't responded to any emails in a while, asks for further guidance.
  - h. Orchestra Manager – Scott Benson Is the conductor on board for online Festival? Masterclass component is similar to his regional festival. They decided not to do virtual ensemble, time consuming and too costly. Open to other possibilities.
  - i. Band Manager – Danielle Conerty - Conductor is still onboard for the festival. Has conductor lined up for 2022, depending what happens this year. Anthony Pandolfe at E.O. Smith HS in CT has been helping out and is interested in putting his name forward as new band manager. Danielle is happy to help him transition as much as possible.
  - j. Festival Hosts – NA
6. President's Report – Marjorie Rooen - Marj thinks that doing a masterclass instead of a virtual festival, in sections, would be more beneficial, as this might be getting bigger than we can handle. Majority agrees. Danielle asks if conductors would be involved, or to save them for next year? Lyvie mentions that doing local publicity for the students accepted would be

worthwhile. Possibility of creating a press release of all students accepted to be shared with sponsors to be sent to their local papers. Discussion on giving the top students of each adjudicator (26) the honor of playing solos and putting them together to be viewed. 7 wind rooms, 5 strings, 8 vocal rooms, 6 ensemble rooms. Steffen makes a proposal that for our solo and ensemble festival this year only we select the highest rated performed in each of adjudicator rooms. John Deeb seconds. All in favor. John makes a motion to have a festival that we decided with top scores and a masterclass for all students accepted. Steffen seconds. When would this happen? Marj says March at the usual time. All in favor. Who would pick masterclass clinicians? Discussion on who to ask. Committee will meet and come up with a plan with managers and create a list. January 9th at 9am will be a meeting for that committee, John would send out meeting link. Discussion on fee for masterclasses. Bill makes a proposal to pay them \$100. John seconds. All in favor.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Concert Festival proposal - Discussed above.
- b. Recruitment efforts – Conventions, Social Media, and Festivals - None

8. New Business

- a. Mason Lowell donation proposal – Tom Reynolds - Tabled to next meeting.

9. Future Dates

- a. Executive Board Meeting March 11, 2021
- b. Executive Board meeting for Concert Festival set up? Steffen suggests we should have one, shouldn't take long, can share his screen and do setup for us to see all auditions. Suggests we have a meeting before or after the committee meeting on January 9th at 10am. Results would come out to students on January 13th.
- c. Future Concert Festival Dates:
  - 2021 Concert Festival; March 11-13 on-line date
  - 2022 Concert Festival; March 17-19 John Deeb host
  - 2023 Concert Festival; March 16-18

10. Any other business that could not be brought to the President before the setting of this agenda?

11. NEMFA Executive Board Comments

12. Adjournment! Steffen makes a motion to adjourn. John seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:45am

Respectfully submitted by Lyvie Beyrent, recording secretary.