

Minutes of ASTA MD/DC Board Meeting, September 27, 2015, 5:00 p.m.
The home of Matthew Tifford

Present: Matthew Tifford, President; Julianna Chitwood, President-Elect; Doree Huneven, Kelly Hsu, Lenelle Morse, Marissa Murphy, Vasily Popov, Kristofer Sanz, Lya Stern

1. Treasurer's Report

\$19,200 in the bank

New line item: Student Scholarships through IIMIF with details on p. 33 of the 2015 Handbook

2. ASTACAP Update: Lya Stern

This is a graded system of exams. There were problems over a year ago with the changes that the National office sought to implement. In the summer of 2014, adjustments and corrections were made in part thanks to Lya Stern and other MD/DC ASTA members.

An important change is that the repertoire has been streamlined in the 10 levels to coordinate with the ASTA Curriculum 6 levels. Please check the website for this information.

One problem had been the requirement of adjudicators to have training. There will now be training within each state that will be conducted by "trained" teachers. Lya will be a mentor for training new ASTACAP "in person" judges.

There will be no changes for this school year's exams. The whole program continues to evolve and we will stay very vocal.

3. East County After-school Strings, sponsored by Strathmore, MCPS, MCYO

This is an after-school program for under-served schools that have string programs but an inability for students to practice at home. The classes will involve 3 teachers each and take place at 4 different schools, two times per week for 4-week sessions. At the completion, all the schools will perform together.

ASTA's responsibility involves finding and vetting the teachers. They would be employees of MCYO for the session and would be paid \$150 for each service.

4. Chapter Publications

A. Stringendo articles: There is a preference for new submissions. We should spread the word to prospective authors. The deadline for the next digital Stringendo is November 1, 2015.

B. Website redesign: The website is out of date according to Google because it needs to comply with mobile devices. We have used the Jonas company in the past and they have been very user-friendly. A motion was passed to investigate redesigning the website with a cap of \$1000.

C. Social Media: Kelly Hsu. It is helpful if calendar items are ready to go in advance of postings. Those who chair events should create the announcements and send them to Kelly. It's great to see the Facebook activity, thanks to Kelly.

D. ASTA Best Newsletter nomination: We simply need to send in 2 copies of our Stringendo Handbook. Kris Sanz volunteered to do the submission.

5. New Officer Nominations timetable

Instead of an overall call for officers, we agreed that personal phone calls are best for recruitment. It was suggested that we have an ASTA informational meeting for potential board members. Kris Sanz suggested partnering with the MCYO wine and cheese reception prior to the December 6 concerts. Elections are usually held at the April meeting.

6. New Events

A. Possible January guitar event: We would need to check with our member guitar teachers to see if this would be of interest. Sponsorship would be a problem and this is something that would only benefit a small portion of our membership.

B. Ani Kavafian Masterclass: This will be held in Spring of 2016 at Towson University with Jeff Howard coordinating the event. A motion passed to seek outside sponsorship and cover funding of the event up to \$750.

C. Cellobration – Amit Peled: We will be communicating about the details and hope to get outside sponsorship for this event. Motion passed to cover funding up to \$1000.

7. SAGWA (Suzuki Association of the Greater Washington Area): Marissa Murphy

The organization wants to become more inclusive. There will be an annual meeting on November 1, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Marissa Murphy. In March 2016, Ed Sprunger, teacher trainer, will be presenting. In May 2016, Jeremy Dittus, a Dalcroix trainer will be presenting.

8. Mini-Conference

There is a need for presenter ideas. Some that were discussed are:

Peter Boonshaft: “Teaching Music with Passion”

Mimi Zweig: Master classes for beginners

Daniel Coyle: Motivating Students and Parents

Burton Kaplan

We agreed that the conference should be free to ASTA members but that there should be an admission charge for non-members.

Minutes submitted by Lenelle Morse for Sachi Murasugi, Secretary/Treasurer.