

NACUSAsf Meeting, May 19, 2011, 7:30 PM at Joanne Carey's home

Attending: Dale Victorine (*President*), Joanne D. Carey (*Secretary*), Karl Schmidt (*Treasurer*), Anne Baldwin, Sondra Clark, John Beeman and Nancy Bloomer-Deussen.

7:45 – Call to order. The Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Karl Schmidt

Karl passed out a two page detailed financial report to everyone. The *Cash Flow Statement* reports our total yearly income through May 12, 2011 to be \$3,196.20 and our expenses for this same period to be \$4,429.47. Our balance going into this season was \$2,993.78. This allowed us to pay our expenses so far; our current cash on hand is \$1760.51.

The *Cash Flow Projection* shows that our June concert will cost \$2,300.00. Of immediate concern is a shortfall of \$539.49 to pay for this concert. It appears unavoidable that donations from composers whose pieces are on the June program will be necessary. Looking further ahead, our cumulative expenses up to and including the November concert are \$4,900.00. Our projected income through November, estimating proceeds from the concert, is \$2,250.00. The shortfall at that time is projected to be \$2,650.00. We discussed the probability that in the near future, composers whose pieces are selected for a given program will be required to make a donation to cover the expenses of that concert. This applies to our June concert as well.

Karl relayed to us his difficulty contacting the NACUSA National Treasurer Dwight Banks so we can see whether everyone in our chapter has paid their dues for the year. He has not been responding to the email address on file for him. Dale said he gotten through to him through someone else; he added he would check the recent address he used to see if it's current, and if so, will pass it on to Karl.

Addendum: After this meeting, Dale received word that Dwight Banks will be working on getting us our dues disbursement.

OLD BUSINESS

Expanding our Audience

We discussed ways to increase attendance at our concerts. Dale reminded us that we are SVAC members. He mentioned going to some SVAC meetings and finding it helpful for networking with other creative organizations. Nancy asked if we could leave flyers for our concerts at concerts and events of other SVAC member groups. Dale said yes, this was permissible.

Dale mentioned contacting harp societies and groups such as the South Bay Harp Society to get the word out to their members about our upcoming concert of new music for harp. Nancy suggested locating the Harp Society on-line and searching the site for a way to post to their members. Sondra said she knows a harp group in Santa Cruz. She will try to contact them about our June Harp concert.

Karl suggested that we might get more audience on Sunday afternoons, as we did in San Jose in April. Nancy and Sondra agreed that 'seniors' don't like to drive at night. We renewed our enthusiasm about presenting more of our concerts in pairs, one on Saturday night and another on a Sunday afternoon. This requires planning our venues for these extra concerts. Dale reminded us that the Palo Alto Art Center would be available again next year.

Composers and Friends II Concert – post concert suggestions

Dale opened discussion and evaluation of the April Composers and Friends II Concert in San Jose. Anne noted that there was a big turnout for this concert, many of whom were friends and relations of Simon Bokman and of our new member Joanne Reinecker. While the big audience was heartwarming, Dale related that the donation plate did not reflect the actual numbers in the audience. This is a potential problem with concerts in churches, where we are not authorized to collect admission while the church solicits ‘voluntary donations’ from attendees.

Dale noted that he recorded this concert and will send the recording to Jeff Dunn for distribution on May 28, once Jeff returns from vacation.

NEW BUSINESS

The Need to Raise Funds: Ideas?

Summer Yard Sale:

Dale asked about volunteers to host our annual yard sale. John Beeman said he can host it again at his house in Half Moon Bay, but it would have to be in July rather than August. We discussed dates and days and concluded that Saturday was by far the best day for a large turnout. John said he would consult with his wife about the date and get back to Dale. Those of us at the meeting all remembered having a great time last year both during and after the yard sale at John’s house.

Silent Auction at June Concert: Coordinator still needed

We discussed the duties and procedures of implementing this type of auction. Anne outlined for us essential steps from her experience running an auction for another group. These fall into two categories: soliciting of items and running the auction itself at the site. Dale showed Anne and the group an auction item donation sheet he had prepared; each item requires certain information, including what the item is and an estimate of its value; it is then assigned a number. The coordinator will start the bidding at 20% of this value. Dale said he would send this sheet to all our members with a request for donations, including suggestions. As he wasn’t sure what to include in the note, Anne said she would formulate a request that included the essential points, as well as ideas for donations, and email it to Dale. For donations that are physical objects, as opposed to tickets, tours, dinners etc., we need a drop-off place. The auction itself requires set-up, supervision (or guarding) during the concert, looking after the bidding during intermission and announcing the winners after the concert. At that time, all the ‘sold’ items need to be distributed to the ‘winners’ after they are paid for, making sure each one is given a receipt. This part of the auction can be confusing, as people want to finish the transaction and go home. Anne asked Dale if the Covenant Presbyterian Church is aware we are planning an auction. She added that we need to know where we can hold it. Dale said he would contact the church.

Anne remembered that Herb was in charge of previous auctions. Karl said he would talk to Herb and try to get a workable agenda from him and perhaps some participation if he is not too busy.

Dan Levitan & Harp Concert: Saturday, June 18th at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto

Sondra asked Dale if Dan Levitan is aware that composers want to attend a rehearsal of their pieces. Dale said he would contact Dan about this and try to pin down some kind of schedule. Nancy wanted to know which movements of her piece were going to be played. She noted that Dan wanted to do all four movements, but apparently only two are scheduled. Joanne, who is a

member of the programming committee, said she would ask John Bilotta, the chairman of the committee about this.

Dale reminded everyone that the dress rehearsal would take place Thursday June 16, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

CPE Concert - Saturday November 5th at SF Community Music Center

Of our CPE group from last November, only Kathy Nitz Kasdorf, Diana Tucker and Monika Gruber have agreed to continue to perform this year. Stephanie Lai (cello) and Miles Graber (piano) declined to be part of this year's CPE. One of the possible reasons for the fallout was that the last CPE concert was too long, with more music than the group had time to rehearse and perform well. It appears, though, that Miles Graber did have a schedule conflict.

For our November concert in San Francisco we will need a new cellist and a new pianist. Dale suggested we evaluate the cellist, Vicky Ehrlich, who performs for us in June. If we like her performance, we can ask if she would like to join CPE for the November concert. Another strategy would be to ask Monika, the violinist, if she knows of a good cellist that would like to play our music.

Sondra acknowledged that she knows lots of pianists; at this time she recommends either Chin Beckmann or Libby Kardontchik. Sondra noted that the location of this concert in San Francisco may be an issue for some peninsula-based musicians.

Since the piano is so often represented in pieces submitted by our members, Dale asked if we should have two pianists and split the fee. Or, added John, we could hire an extra pianist only if we needed one. Karl and Dale suggested that the programming committee favor pieces that don't require the piano. To some of those present, including Sondra and me, this seemed to be an unfair exclusion.

2012 Hired Group Concert (June 2012)

Dale brought up the symphonic wind band idea that we had discussed at the last meeting. After talking to the conductor of the San Jose Wind Symphony, he now thinks it will be too expensive to use that group. Karl suggested that we hire a portion of the whole band and give composers the option of writing for smaller groups within the band. John Beeman said he knows the Saratoga Symphonic Band and could talk to them about this approach. Nancy, who has written a number of band pieces, recommended keeping the pieces short, to about six or seven minutes. Sondra pointed out the importance of giving brass players plenty of rests to re-hydrate and not to get too complex. Other suggestions for our 2012 group or theme included a piano quintet (i.e. a string quartet plus piano), a brass quintet, a saxophone quartet (of which Brian Holmes is member), and opera arias and scenes' concert. The latter idea, proposed by John Beeman, was inspired by Mark Alburger's handling of shorter opera material in some of the SF Composer's Orchestra concerts.

2013 – The choral Project:

Dale reported that Daniel Hughes is still committed to doing a choral concert with us in 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanne D. Carey
Secretary of NACUSAsf