

Governing Board Call December 15, 2006

*Bruce Ridge, Brian Rood, Laura Ross, Michael Moore, Richard Levine, Paul Gunther, Steve Lester, Meredith Snow,
Leonard Leibowitz, James Nickel*

DISCUSSION TOPICS: new ICSOM website, *Senza Sordino* Newlets, posting of GB minutes, site visits, meetings Bruce will attend (ASOL, CDP, PCC), discussion about the health care database and strike fund request, and notice to ICSOM members regarding a University of Michigan sleep study

1. **Website** – following general discussion and initial approval by the board it was further suggested that delegates be given a chance to comment on the website with an announcement via Delegate-L. All agreed that Bruce Christensen has done a great job. Additional comments from the board included the prominence of the newsfeed links and suggestions that there be no mistake that this is the ICSOM website. Additional suggestions including the addition of graphics on the home page to identify ICSOM and perhaps using old and submitted photographs from ICSOM orchestra members. Paul also recommended that MOLA be included as a link. Since Bruce Ridge recommended the site go live with a press release that the date be established in conversation between Bruce Ridge and Bruce Christensen.

Richard asked if we need signed agreements regarding the news-feeds Polyphonic and ArtsJournal. Len believed it would be a good idea.

2. **Newslets and other *Senza* updates** – since it has not been clear where the information for the Newslets come from in *Senza Sordino* (our preference is always to receive the information from the delegates) it was suggested that a policy/disclaimer be included in the next issue along with encouraging submissions for future issues. Richard suggested attribution (press release, newspaper, etc.) for anything not submitted by the delegate. The MALs will contact their delegates in the next week to ask for submissions.

Richard planned to have the issue done by the end of December. Michael requested a box be included to remind orchestras to pay their dues. Brian said he was considering writing something for this issue and Richard reported that Bruce and Len have written long articles.

3. **Posting governing board minutes on Orchestra-L** – Minutes will continue to be pasted into Delegate-L messages as well as their normal posting on the ICSOM website. Laura will announce each posting on Orchestra-L. Bruce suggested MALs recommend delegates print out governing board minutes for posting on their orchestra boards.

4. **Possible site visits -**

- a. **Oregon** – Bruce has been in touch with the delegate and while the orchestra is preparing for negotiations, there may be a window to visit in March. Bruce spoke about his 3 site visits (Virginia, Charlotte, and San Antonio) and said they are very enriching experiences for him. He tries to meet with all constituencies so he can truly understand the orchestra's issues. Bruce believes these visits are very important especially in light of our goal to elevate the profile of ICSOM. This is a chance to teach our orchestras to be their own advocates.

- b. **Phoenix** – There have been discussions about a possible visit in the future. Laura pointed out that the Local reached out to ICSOM last summer and suggested they be involved in any visit. Reaching out to the Local is something Bruce will continue to do in the future.

Charlotte report – According to Bruce, Tom Morris (who was hired by the Charlotte Symphony as a consultant) recently presented his report. Bruce suggested he might be able to return for another site visit since Charlotte is close to Raleigh.

5. **December 18 ASOL meeting in NYC** – Bruce will visit the AFM in the morning before meeting with ASOL representatives in the afternoon.

- 6. Florence Nelson and the Health Care Data Base** – Bruce has spoken to Florence about the history of the New World Symphony Fence Agreement (which expires soon). James has e-mailed Florence regarding her assistance with the database. He and Michael hope to speak to Florence this weekend.
- 7. Pacific Symphony request to join Strike Fund** – Brian (as one of ICSOM's 2 strike fund trustees) spoke about issues the strike fund faces with this orchestra's request. The major challenges are the lack of weekly salary (81-service guarantee) and an established roster. According to the wage chart only 20% of the orchestra's \$17M budget goes to the musicians. No decision has been made so far.
- 8. Scheduling of next call** – January 7, 2007 midwinter agenda 10PM EDT/9PM CDT/7PM PDT
- 9. Topics for Mid-winter** – to be discussed on next call
- 10. Sleep study** – ICSOM will send out an e-mail with a link to the University of Michigan sleep study questionnaire stating that this will be a one-time mailing on this topic. There should be some sort of message from the GB explaining why our members are receiving the message.
- 11. CDP meeting on January 15** – Bruce had requested that Brian be added to the group but the ASOL said there were to be only 2 from each representative group; currently they are Bruce and Henry Peyrebrune. The ASOL is covering expenses for this trip, though additional expenses for a PCC meeting on January 14 will be covered by ICSOM.