

## ICSOM Governing Board Call - April 14, 2008

*Bruce Ridge, Brian Rood, Laura Ross, Richard Levine, Paul Gunther, James Nickel, Cathy Payne, Meredith Snow, Len Leibowitz (Michael Moore is out of the country)*

Richard reports that the Directories are being assembled this week and should be in the mail next week.

### **FIM (International Federation of Musicians) report –**

**General Report:** Bruce had a very interesting time in Berlin. He was pleased with the response to his remarks and received some good feedback. He reported that OCSM President Francine Schutzman met a lot of people and asked some excellent questions, and that Tom Lee, Laura Brownell and Bill Skolnik all led presentations. ROPA President Tom Fetherston rounded out the player conference contingent and Bruce reported that Sam Folio was also there. Bruce recommended those who were interested in conference specifics check Robert Levine's blog for Polyphonic. Bruce pointed out that while it's nice to have these larger organizations like FIM, each orchestra is truly local. What ICSOM provides is a network to allow our musicians to communicate with each other.

He spoke about some of the interesting information he learned while in Berlin, for example that auditions are handled quite differently around the world – many do not listen to orchestra excerpts. In the Berlin Philharmonic the entire orchestra attends the audition and the entire orchestra later votes on tenure – Bruce mentioned a film “Trip to Asia” about some of the musicians who are currently probationary musicians in the Philharmonic.

Bruce and Francine heard a performance of the Berlin Philharmonic and went backstage afterward to meet the musicians.

Laura B. has hired a new contract administrator for SSD but we have not received official notification.

### **2. Orchestra updates -**

*a. Columbus:* Len is in Columbus during the call and he reported that most of the morning and afternoon was spent discussing strategy and drawing up their proposal. They meet again tomorrow.

Richard asked about the recent NY Times article that included many management quotes while supposedly observing a press blackout. The musicians are angry that management continues to ignore the press blackout and continue to say inappropriate things to the press.

*b. Honolulu:* they are now 7 weeks behind in pay.

### **3. Mellon -**

*a. Princeton:* This academic gathering at Princeton convenes next week, so the AFM request to attend came too late. Bruce would not have been able to attend.

*b. May Orchestra Forum meeting:* Carla Lehmeier (ROPA Vice President/New Mexico Sym.) will attend as will Brian Rood for his orchestra. Bruce has been invited to attend for ICSOM. The board agrees he should attend.

*c. Flanagan responses, etc.:* There has been no AFM response so far. Len reported he has yet to see it at the bargaining table.

### **4. Collaborative Data Project –Bruce and Brian will respond with their availability.**

**5. A/V negotiations** – There was concern that 19 Executive Directors planned to attend what was expected to be another sub-committee meeting on April 21. There is a sub-committee call planned to discuss this and other topics prior to the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Bruce promised to follow up after the conference call.

**6. Polyphonic.org September meeting** – initial invitations have gone out to orchestra committee chairs of twenty five orchestras. Bruce has been invited to attend for ICSOM.

**7. Conference planning** –Cathy’s updates were very informative. Laura said she would speak with Dave Schoenbrun, Local 6 President, about what a CPA or tax attorney may need when speaking about tax status concerns at the conference. We will formally invite the IEB to attend the conference on our first day, and hopefully talk to the delegates – we need open communication. A formal request for Maureen Kilkelly to attend the conference will also be sent to Tom.

**8. Senza Sordino** – Richard reported that *Senza* was going to the printer this week and mailed next week. He also asked people to submit names for complimentary copies of both *Senza* and the Directory. Since it is our intention to have a July issue prior to the conference, Richard set July 1 as the deadline and May 1 for the upcoming May issue.