

**Delaware Symphony Orchestra
Education Committee Meeting**
Music School of Delaware, Room 224
March 15, 2016 * 5:00-6:30pm
MEETING MINUTES

NEXT MEETING: May 10, 2016; Music School of Delaware 5pm.

Purpose:

Determine how we can add value to Music Educators in DE
Discuss ways to improve our reach and effectiveness in FY17

Desired Outcomes:

- Agreement on future of DE Music Teacher Award or Music Educator Recognition
- Suggestions for improved communications re: Explorer Experience next year.

In Attendance: M. Acero, C. Astolfi, R. Hoke, M. Murray, R. Stoddard, M. Ripsom

Agenda:

FY16 Program Update.

Marjie provided a quick update on the Explorer Concert ticket sales, the All-State Sectionals and the upcoming Build the Orchestra collaboration with Red Clay's Middle School District Orchestra. A more thorough update dated March 6, 2016, was previously communicated electronically.

Music Educator Recognition.

The starter question, "Why should the DSO have an educator recognition activity?" was posed to the committee. A number of reasons were immediately put forth. They included that it is these teachers who introduce students to orchestral music and that they are working with, and inspiring those, who will become future professional musicians. The teachers are key to getting students on the path to becoming active as a creator or patron of orchestral music – they populate the pipeline!

Marcia Acero, recipient in 2000, shared how the Jesse Ball DuPont Music Educator's Award was handled previously. The award was presented at the top of the 2nd half of a spring Classics Concert. The recipient was asked up on stage and invited to make a short speech. The \$1000 award was unrestricted. The winner was also given a plaque, a number of comp tickets for that concert, and their name was in an article in the paper. It brought the winner closer to the DSO and made music about more than just what happens in the classroom. For Marcia, it inspired a much stronger relationship and love for the Symphony. Winners were invited to join the Education Committee the following year.

The committee discussed other ways to recognize the work of music teachers. Some possibilities:

- Recognize teachers who inspired DSO musicians and/or the music director, David Amado
- Change venue for recognition to one that is in front of other music educators. For example, DMEA day, as it is the most attended (but not all music teachers are members)
- To reduce the sense of win/lose, award multiple such as 1 person per county, or by grade level (elementary, middle, HS), or maybe one for each: band, strings, choral, general. School teachers and studio teachers should be considered.
- Recognize all Music Educators at a reception following a Classics Concert. (March is Music in our Schools Month" – maybe Classics 3 or 4?). Then we might not call it the Jesse Ball duPont Music Educator's Award – do we need to get permission to change the name?

- Treat the award like a grant and include a letter of recommendation as part of the application. Then we would be honoring an idea, not recognizing what an educator has accomplished and is doing.

If the DSO did award an individual, we would need to develop requirements or a rubric to facilitate and reduce time for evaluating candidates. In the past it was an arduous application process – for the applicant and the evaluators!

Another question was could we use social media to help us identify candidates? Could we send out a challenge for applicants/ nominations that way? Can we have a process where peers could remain part of the process until a bracket of top candidates is identified?

Recommendation: 2 parts

1. Grant (still to be determined if this is for a project or recognition for a past contribution)
2. Event – a music educator’s night. Teachers come free (given 2 comp tix each) and a reception after. Get publicity out (Matthew Albright?). Could we get the tickets underwritten? In addition, in/insert in the program for this concert, have DSO musicians list the name of the teacher that inspired them and maybe a little tribute or blurb about that teacher.

Adjustments to FY17 Budget and Programming.

Estimates were updated and submitted to the Board at their March 14 meeting. Total budget for FY17 is \$104,400. A sheet comparing FY16 and FY17 was distributed at the meeting.

Teacher’s Guide.

Marjie asked for upgrades to the process for creating the Explorer Experience Teacher’s Guide. Last year, she put out the request for authors via the DMEA and there was no response. The quality of what was created was subpar. The Committee suggested I tap educators on the committee first, then go to the DMEA and other educator communities if necessary. \$750 is a reasonable amount for 1 person. Since the audience for the guide is primarily music teachers, it’s not necessary to pull in ELA, Science or Math teachers to create lessons. It is important to list the standards to show the legitimacy of the lessons –and encourage teachers to use them. Lessons should be in a format everyone can access. Smartboard lessons should be in addition. Rachel Hoke expressed interest in crafting the Teacher’s Guide for next year.

Identify School District points of contact for communications and possible new members

Moved to next meeting.

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NEXT MEETING: May 10, 2016; Music School of Delaware 5pm.

Agenda:

Celebrate accomplishments of FY16 !

Develop improved communication plan for Explorer Experience

Continue to identify School District points of contact for communications

Discuss membership, develop rotation plan & identify future members

Set Meeting Schedule for FY17