

Delaware Symphony Orchestra
Education Committee Meeting
Community Service Building, Room 109
October 18, 2016 * 5:30 – 6:30pm
MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: S. Babcock, R. Hoke, A. Jordan, G. Kwon-Kubacki, M. Murray, A. Pisano (phone), M, Ripsom, R. Stoddard, C. Babcock as a visitor

Next Meeting, THURSDAY, November 17, 2016 at The Grand Opera House; 5:30-6:30PM

New Members. Sharon Babcock joined us for the first time. She comes to us with a long background in music education, specializing in voice. Charlie Babcock, our DSO Board President joined us as a visitor.

Strategic Plan. We continued with our discussion of the strategic plan as it relates to Education initiatives. Under the Community Engagement pillar, is the goal to “enhance educational programs to engage a more diverse population” which includes a number of action steps.

Develop a Small Ensembles program. (Also referred to as Visiting Chamber Ensembles.)

The specific goal of these ensembles is to help the DSO reach more students throughout the state and be cost neutral.

DSO musicians were polled with 2 different questionnaires over the spring and summer. The questionnaires were looking for ensembles for school work as well as individual requests (private events, etc.) 14 DSO musicians expressed an interest in participating in small education ensembles with 7 willing to leading one. Musicians were specifically asked if they were willing to go down state; 11 responded yes.

At the DMEA Arts Day, Marjie spoke with a number of teachers who were interested in having an ensemble visit. They did not know they might need to fund the cost. The DSO budget allows for two ensembles this year with the whole cost covered by grants or the schools. The Longwood Grant, when received, includes \$ allocated to expand.

The original thought was to target grades 2-4: students who will be choosing instruments soon. A suggestion was made to have each ensemble have different programs for different ages in case a school’s interest were outside this target group.

Questions were raised about the nature of these visits. What would the musicians do besides perform? The implication was there needs to more than just a performance. In the past, each musician went into a different classroom for 30 minutes and then performed all together for the last 30 min. Bob Stoddard shared that our original Warner Arts Alliance program was tried with 2nd graders, but they were too young. Alan shared we want to develop these programs in-house and then take it out to the schools. Do we need school input into the creation? Philly Opera publishes units on-line that you can use with school units. Maybe we could do something like that. Anita Pisano volunteered to share the link. Teachers encouraged the DSO to connect the programs to core curricula which would open up more sources for funding.

How do we get started? If we initiated some groups before the November Classic Concert, maybe the musicians could find time to meet and discuss. Another suggestion was to use the current Math and Music unit. Before going too far, the DSO should ask the teachers on our committee what they would like to see.

Develop Pre-K Offerings.

What can the symphony add to what is already present in Delaware? The Music School of Delaware has a broad early childhood program that serves Pre-K audiences. Many schools pay for the instruction; some are sponsored through grant money. The majority of students reached are in NCC with limited exposure at their Milford site.

Some ideas included professional development for pre-school teachers, or providing or funding musician visits to pre-school classrooms. The latter would be “sponsored by the DSO.”

Could we link with the Music School of Delaware or possibly UD’s Community Music School? Marjie to follow up.

Youth Symphony.

Many symphony orchestras have a youth symphony orchestra associated with it. The Music School of Delaware’s DYSO or Delaware Youth Symphony Orchestra fills that role in Delaware. There is also a youth orchestra in Dover, though much smaller. Though not mentioned specifically in the DSO strategic plan, there is opportunity to improve the link between the DSO and the DYSO. Their music director, Simeone Tartaglione is interested in pursuing this. The DYSO is seeing students leave and go to the Philly Youth Symphony Orchestra. There are more combined activities with Philly Orch. They also offer perks such as free tickets to their concerts. Should the DSO consider offering complimentary tickets? Or could the DSO do to provide some advantages to those in the DYSO? We have been encouraged to look at opportunities in this area.

State-Wide Network.

Looking to expand the Education Committee geographically, we continued work started last May to identify a contact in each school district. Deb Hansen would be a good contact for names in Kent and Sussex. Suzanne Burton (UD Music Ed) could also be helpful. An honoree at the Arts Advocacy Awards, Sen. Dori Connor, might be another possibility for our committee. We will add Kelly Busovsky at Caravel Academy to the contact list. An updated list was sent out earlier this month. The latest version is attached.

Updates on Current Programs

Marjie quickly reviewed updates on the following programs. This information was distributed earlier in the update dated September 20, 2016. It is attached for review.

- a. Explorer
- b. Build the Orchestra Expansion
- c. Math and Music Expansion

Reminders:

Master Class at Music School of Delaware, 11/16/2016; 4:15 – 5:45 with Jinjoo Cho

Family Concert: 11/20/2016 at 12:30 and 3:00PM, Cab Calloway