



**EDMONTON STRING PLAYERS ASSOCIATION  
MARCH 2023 GM**

**Meeting Minutes**

Type of Meeting: General Meeting

Date: March 16, 2023

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: M.E.P/Ascension Lutheran Church

Proposed duration: 1.5 hours.

**Attendees**

Karen Hipson, President

Maryse Bouchard, Vice-President

Liliana Filipoiu, Secretary

Jason Linton

Kathy Walters

Jie Zhang

Vipanchi Garaga

Kathalina Olsen

Aron Bhowmick

### **Call to Order: 7.00 pm**

It was established that the meeting has a quorum. Member attendance was recorded from the sign-in sheet.

### **Agenda Approval**

MOTION: Maryse Bouchard moved to approve the agenda. Karen Hipson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Adoption of Minutes from the Last Meeting**

MOTION: Liliana Filipoiu moved to adopt the last Meeting. Maryse Bouchard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **President's Report: Karen Hipson**

- **SHELVING PURCHASE:** after looking at different styles of shelves from different companies (Uline, Princess Auto, Costco, Global Industrial, Staples), the best choice was Uline because they are better designed to avoid waste of space. The shelves are heavy-duty and will accommodate the weight of the boxes (roughly 20 lbs each). We are looking for approval for up to \$1000 for shelves (69" units are \$386 each, and 48" are \$293 each). If approved, the funds will come from the grant we received from the City of Edmonton.

MOTION: Karen Hipson moved to approve the proposal, and Maryse Bouchard seconded, all in favor. Motion carried.

- **COMPUTER UPGRADE:** we upgraded the computer, which was long overdue. Many thanks to Jason for being able to purchase/donate the needed parts and for working on the hardware side.
- **WEBSITE UPDATE:** the initial setup was in 2012, It has a lot of issues, one of those being that the board was not able to make updates. The quote we

got from Shannon (who did the current website and maintained it ever since) for updating is \$2427 (that includes the 10% off and crediting our payments to her from 2020-2022). She will train one board member on how to do future updates. A suggestion that we received from a parent is to have the training recorded, so if someone else needs to be trained, the recorded session will be available. The deadline to finish the new website is April before registrations start.

MOTION: Karen Hipson moved to approve the expenses related to computer upgrades and website updates, Liliana Filipoiu seconded, all in favor. Motion carried.

- 2023-2024 SCHEDULE:

We intend to have enrollment open in mid-April. Once we have finalized the audition dates, we'll start to contact the area teachers to notify and invite them to our year-end concert. We will also send notes to teachers through our students and encourage them and their parents to advertise the orchestra to their entourage.

- ORCHESTRA LEVEL 1- Miriam is available to continue conducting this group. The schedule will remain the same, Monday evenings from 5:45-6:45 pm with no break in between. No audition is required, the only requirement is taking lessons for a year and /or a teacher recommendation. The private teachers' information will be required at enrollment. Target enrollment for this group is a minimum of 20, and a maximum of 40 students. Fee: \$ 225.00/ year, \$125.00/mid-year (mid-year enrollment in January is permitted).
- ORCHESTRA LEVEL 2 – Patricia is available to continue conducting this group. The schedule will remain the same, Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm, with a 15-minute break in the middle. Moving up from Orchestra 1 will be by the conductor's recommendation/approval. New students auditioning will be asked to play a 2-octave scale, a piece of their choice at about RCM 3, and do a piece of provided sight reading. They will also be required to be in private lessons and to provide their teacher's information at enrollment. Target enrollment is the same as Orchestra 1, with a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 40 students. Fee: \$300.00/year, \$175.00/mid-year (mid-year enrollment in January is permitted.)
- FIDDLINISTS – This group will continue, with one change: Daniel Gervais and Jarred Albright will be co-conducting on a schedule that accommodates their availability. The schedule will remain the same, Mondays from 7:00-9:00 pm. New students auditioning will be asked to

play a 2-octave scale, a piece of their choice at about RCM 4, and do a piece of provided sight reading (subject to the conductor's approval). Students must also be in private lessons and provide their teacher's information at enrollment. The target enrollment for this group is 15-20 students. Maximum TBD. Fee: \$325.00/year, \$200.00/mid-year (mid-year enrollment in January is permitted).

- ADULT GROUPS – Miriam is available to conduct these 2 groups, with the same schedule, Mondays from 2:00-3:15 PM and 7:00-8:15 pm. It will remain non-auditioned, with the requirement to contact Miriam. Ongoing enrollment is permitted at Miriam's discretion. Fee: \$225.00/year, \$125.00 in January, or calculated at \$30.00 /month remaining.
- ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING – At this time, both Miriam and Patricia agree that creating another level of the orchestra for the coming season is premature, and that will be better to work on filling the levels we have now (both are still rather small), as well as enhancing the existing groups as numbers permit (i.e., through breakout sessions, workshops, etc.). If there is interest from youth and/or adult students, MEP can look at bringing in guest instructors to do enrichment /workshops. This would need to be scheduled before the 7:00 pm rehearsal on Thursday evenings, as our schedule has no other open window.
- OPEN HOUSE – we will plan for rehearsals on May 8<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup> to be “open house” evenings where teachers, parents, and prospective students can drop in on any of the rehearsals, observe, ask questions of conductors at the end of rehearsal, and talk to board members during rehearsals if they have general questions.

### **Treasurer Report**

- Casino funds were automatically deposited on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$75,723.05. What a big success and a huge thank you to Jason and the volunteers.
- As of March 14<sup>th</sup>, the balance to our general operating account is \$120,726.35.
- As of March 14<sup>th</sup>, the balance in our casino account is \$85,555.21.
- As of March 14<sup>th</sup>, the balance in our bingo account is \$3,519.74.
- As of March 14<sup>th</sup>, the balance in our E-transfer account is \$2,350.00.

- We need to use the funds from our bingo account first, to be emptied, since our license is officially canceled.

### **Fundraising Report**

- Fund scrip is ready to go, Little Cesar fundraising will start the week after (by people's request).

### **Volunteering Report**

- The concert committee is being put together. The date for the concert is **Sunday, May 28, 2023, at McDougal Church.**

### **AGM- Election of new executives**

- We need to elect board members for next year, as several board members won't be able to continue. No application is required, please let us know if you have any suggestions or if you are interested to be a board member.

### **Upcoming Dates**

We have set the dates for the next meetings:

- Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 7:00 pm (we will include Zoom in the meeting for those who cannot be present).

-Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, @ 10:00 am.

Concert date: Sunday, May 28, 2023.

Audition dates for Orchestra 2 will be June 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Miriam and Patricia will be both present, so the students will be correctly placed in Orchestra 2 or encouraged to join Orchestra 1.

Audition dates for Fiddlinists are TBD, on a separate date that ideally both Daniel and Jarred can be present for.

**20:12 – Meeting adjourned.**

