Edmonton String Players Association
Board Meeting Minutes - March 5 2026, 8:00pm

Type of Meeting: Unofficial - Board Members Location: Online (Zoom)

Attendees:
Amy Archibald, President; Margaret Usko, Fundraising Director;
Vanessa Kay, Secretary; Karen Hipson, Administrator

Regrets:
Ryan Heit, Treasurer and Volunteer Coordinator; Karen Kawulka, Vice President
Liliana Filipoiu, Events and Social Media Director

Old Business

A. Social Media update model and advertising (update by Liliana submitted over email)
- Liliana & Karen post on social media. Liliana livestreamed a Fiddlinists Xmas concert.

B. Bring a Friend Day Review (January 12 2026)
- Attendance was modest. Future similar events could benefit from flyers in advance.

C. Winter Concert Review
- The concert was well organized, and the video worked out well, and is now on YouTube.
- Cam offered to MC for the Spring Concert, which we will gratefully accept.

D. Concert Venue Options Update
- A volunteer (Joe) has shared a shortlist of concert venue options, including:
  - West Meadows Baptist Church (Edmonton)
  - First Presbyterian Church (Edmonton)
  - Villa by Nerval (Edmonton)
  - Enjoy Centre Moonflower Room (St. Albert)
  - Edmonton Inn and Conference Centre (Edmonton)
  - Devon Community Centre (Devon)
  - Horowitz Theatre (U of A - Edmonton)
  - Robertson Wesley United Church (Edmonton)
  - Citadel Theatre – Schoctor Theatre (Edmonton)
  - Telus World of Science (Edmonton)
  - Sherwood Park Arena (Sherwood Park)
  - Shell Theatre (Fort Saskatchewan)
  - Sherwood Park Community Centre/County Hall - The Agora (Sherwood Park)
- Joe needs help to narrow this down.
- We need to book a Winter concert venue in the next month or so.

New Business

A. Board Interest for Next Year
- Board member needs for next year include a president and a casino director
- Online meetings that don't overlap with practices may help support participation.

ACTION: Karen can advertise the need for board members in the newsletter

B . No Silent auction for spring concert 2026 – lack of volunteer interest (Amy)

C . Recruitment plan for musicians for the 26/27 season…

- We can use casino funds to advertise the Music Enrichment Program at venues and events, like the Stage Eaters Theatre in Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan Music Festival (~$200), Sherwood Park Music Festival ($500), Edmonton Music Festival ($50-$150 – digital only) & The Grand North American Old-Time Fiddle Championship ($500).
- A future effort will be to coordinate printed posters for string music shops, with printable versions for teacher studios. Margaret can help Karen make this in Canva.

ACTION: Amy will submit a motion by email to allocate funds to advertise in event programs.

D . Rehearsal venue options

- Our future rehearsal space needs include twin rehearsal spaces, a music library, storage, and a small office space. Office and library could be one space if suitable.
- Karen has followed up with the Kirk Centre (122 Ave) for availability and rental pricing of their office, storage, and two large rehearsal spaces.
- The former McCauley School is operated by the Edmonton Intercultural Centre which rents out the former gym and lunchroom to nonprofits. We may not fit their mission.

E . Selling the bass in the library? (offer to purchase for $500)

- Karen will double check ownership of the bass - that it's not Patricia's.
- Conversations are needed with conductors RE: instrument inventory stored at the church (2 violas, 3-4 violins, 1 bass, identified as usable emergency instruments). If conductors agree, we could sell or maintain them. The bass is regularly used by students.

F Fundscrip fundraiser (Margaret)

- Margaret will plan an early April handout for distribution of Fundscrip cards in May.

G Potential Future Programming:

  - Sarah would like to run an Orchestra 3
  - Miriam would like to run a Level 2 for adults
  - Patricia is meeting a chamber group of program alumni every 2-3 weeks upstairs
  - Some in the adult orchestra would prefer 1.5 instead of 1.25 hour rehearsals.
- The limiting factor for new programs expanding or continuing is rehearsal space.
- Interest in potential future programming informs our choice of future rehearsal space.

H Payments and Lesson Requirements

- There are a few members who haven't paid for the year.
- MEP requires students to take private lessons, but sets no requirements for teachers.

ACTIONS: Karen will communicate to families that the students won't be able to continue attending without payment, nothing the available application for financial assistance.

- Next year's handbook update will note that after 2 warnings, a student cannot continue.
- Karen will discuss with conductors the requirement for students to be in private lessons.

I Photos

- There may be interest in individual and ensemble photos. (Past photos were digital only.)

ACTION: Amy will ask Melanie for the details of a past photographer and try to book for May.

<u>Next meeting – AGM</u>

- Karen will reach out to the church to book Saturday April 18th, 10am
- Refreshments are a good idea because all members are invited.
- Attendance counts as volunteer hours. We could give one registration as a door prize.