

Monteux Associates Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 10, 2023  
Tamarack Hall and ZOOM, 5:00 pm

Members present: Doug Kimmel, Chair; Trudi Allcott, George & Charlotte Draper, Lorraine Gawronski, Nancy Hill, Al Judd, Bill McCartor, Ron Schwizer, Mike & Pat Summerer, Pierre Vauthy, Dianne Eckhardt; Stan Renard (by Zoom).

Executive Director Stan Reynard attended by ZOOM

Doug Kimmel brought the meeting to order at 5:00. He began by announcing the Search Committee's appointment of Dr. Tiffany Lu as new Music Director beginning in the 2024 season. The Associates expressed their great pleasure at the decision, and send congratulations to Dr. Lu on her appointment.

We then moved to the AGENDA:

MINUTES — Secretary Mary Turner was absent due to illness; Charlotte Draper took minutes for the meeting. The Minutes of the previous meeting on June 2 were distributed; moved, seconded, and passed for acceptance. Many thanks to Mary!

VOLUNTEER HOURS — if you have not yet completed your Volunteer Hours Form, please do so ASAP and return it to Mary Turner; these figures are used in writing grant proposals as a demonstration of audience support for Monteux. (Note — the questions relating to hours spent volunteering for Monteux are not intended to include hours spent at concerts).

CAMPUS FACILITIES and WORKDAYS — Stan reported that the School buildings have been cleaned, and await the arrival of the plumber to turn off water. 1,700 tickets were sold during the season. The music score library in Tamarack is ready for use. A gift of furniture from Ed Allen is presently in the library and back area of Tamarack and will be distributed among the dorms in the Spring. Many thanks to Ed and Lorraine! The 3 new bike racks purchased for this past summer were well used by students, and kept the collection of bicycles in order. Bicycles are currently stored for the winter. Two large heat pump air conditioning units are on order for next summer. Their principal use is to cool the stage area for rehearsals during the few very hot days of summer rather than servicing the entire hall; it is expected that two units will be sufficient for that purpose, as the Forest Studio is not insulated and the noise of AC units prevents them from being used during concerts. Stan will write an article for an upcoming Newsletter encouraging donations to help pay for the AC units. Bill McCartor, Work Crew coordinator, thanked Associates and the many others who have worked hard over the summer. He reported the activities accomplished on the spring work day, June 14, such as hanging screen doors, repairs, bicycle maintenance, weed whacking, delivering cleaning items to

cabins, and clearing the Forest Studio garden. The professional garden crew scheduled to work on the garden did not appear, and Associates did a first rough clearing; a few days later a crew from Seaside Landscaping manicured the garden and planted several shrubs; they will be asked to return next year. Bill made several suggestions for campus improvement for next year:

Work Day date — Suggests that Flag Day (June 14) become the standing date for Associates to work on campus at the start of the season.

Recyclables — always overflowing in the dorms. Suggest that a “Clink” account be set up and collection bags distributed to dorms. Students can bag the recyclables and Bill will see to it that they are delivered to Hannaford Market; the refund to go to the School. Trudi Allcott volunteered to set up the account — Many thanks, Trudi!

General maintenance— a variety of maintenance jobs need doing, and additional problems needing repair occur every summer while the Festival is in session. Board Chairman Phil Devenish has been on the lookout for someone to be on call for such work, and has recently been talking with a couple, Geoff and Petra Hill, about the needs of the school.

Bill will continue to coordinate Monteux workdays and maintenance — we are all very grateful for his creative efforts!

BICYCLES — Mike Summerer checked the bicycles for maintenance and repairs at work day. He reported that 9 bikes are usable; others need parts that are no longer available. The Hancock Church yard sale provided a bike this summer, bringing the number to 10; it would be good to have another 5, or so; pass the word around among friends that we would welcome donations. There are at least 2 bicycle shops in the Hancock area. A suggestion was made that these shops might have old but usable bikes available to donate. The bikes are well-used for getting around campus, and they have been fitted with reflectors, but night-riding is very dangerous on Rte. 1, and students were encouraged to wear reflecting jackets and helmets. Some students bring their own bikes, as well.

ACTIVITIES and ENRICHMENT for STUDENTS — Several Associates described recreational activities they offered to students apart from the events sponsored by the Associates as a whole: dinners, excursions to local sights, hiking expeditions, and a workshop in baton-making. After the Children's concert there was an all-campus pizza lunch! Students enjoy getting off campus, and organize their own groups for rock-climbing, disc golf, and other activities. Lorraine brought up the possibility of renting/building a large tent or pavilion-like shelter which could be set up on campus for larger groups without having to dismantle either the backstage area or the hall. Tent-rental is extremely expensive, but the need is acknowledged, and deserves further thought.

AIRPORT TRANSPORT, ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES — Doug organized volunteers to pick up students arriving at the Bangor airport at the beginning of

the Festival and will do so in 2024. Lorraine substituted for Peggy Karns to organize their departures. Doug will check with Peggy about resuming responsibility for the departures roster in 2024. There were no particular snags in the scheduling this year, though arrivals and departures very late at night or early morning continue to be difficult for drivers, especially when flights are delayed. The Orchestra Assistants, many of whom have cars, are asked for help with this as well as the Associate Volunteers. Hiring a shuttle bus or two, perhaps a truck for luggage, was discussed. Stan will continue to urge students to try to find flights at more convenient hours. When we send out the request for airport drivers for departure we will send the message to students with cars as well — often, roommates and friends are up at night/early morning to say goodbye to their friends: some of them will have cars and could take their friends themselves to the very early morning flights.

**WELCOME SUPPER** — The Welcome Supper, a pizza-salad-dessert supper, is the first all-student & staff activity sponsored by the Associates. It occurs the first night after the students' arrival the previous day, and provides an important kick-off to the season, getting the students all together at the Forest Studio for the first time, and leading to their first rehearsal which follows directly after the meal. Charlotte Draper & Mary Turner organized the Supper again this year, and asked for a volunteer for 2024. Trudi Allcott and Dianne Eckhardt volunteered to take over the Supper in 2024. Charlotte and Mary are delighted, and will meet with Trudi and Dianne to go over details of planning and organization. Many Thanks, Dianne and Trudy. An alert to other Associates: as the Supper occurs fairly early in June, it requires people resident in the area or who have arrived by the beginning of June to organize the event, and many of us are also giving a Section Dinner that same week (see next section). We know that June is a very busy time for everybody here, year-round or summer resident, but please consider taking over this responsibility at some time in the future.

**SECTION DINNERS** — These dinners for each orchestra section are given by Associate volunteers at the end of the week the students arrive. They provide an opportunity for members of a Section to get to know each other apart from rehearsal time, and for us audience members to get to know the students. Musicians see a little of the community they are now part of, get a yummy meal, and get off campus, and are a lot of fun. Mary Vauthy organized this year's Section Dinners just after surgery — heroically! — and we are very grateful to her.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR**

A general discussion followed completion of the Agenda items:

**Ticket sales/Audience size** — The orchestra was particularly strong this year, thanks in large part to Stan's and Tiffany's early and active recruitment.

“Classical music is alive and well” offered Bill, and students like ours are well-networked and aware of musical opportunities available to them, here at Monteux and elsewhere. In addition, the presence on campus of many well-respected conductors and orchestra coaches further professionalized the Festival. The Forest Studio was generally well-populated on Sundays, though the Wednesday concerts continue to be less well attended. Suggestions were made of efforts to attract more young people. Stan reminded us that young people under 18 are already offered free admission, and that since we do not supply actual tickets, there is a logistical problem. It may be solved by offering free admission to them only on Wednesdays. There are music schools in the area for young people, and perhaps something can be worked out with them to bring young people to concerts. The Children's' Concert was a huge success this year — Congratulations to Stan for recruitment; to Tiffany, who ran the program; and to Ed and Lorraine, who once again supplied a pizza lunch for the musicians! — and we can hope that over time this effort will bring older young people to Monteux.

Seating Chart — Stan brought up the subject of whether an on-line seating chart would be helpful or not for non-subscribers purchasing tickets. At present, subscribers have assigned seats; other are seated on a chart compiled by Stan and Mary, in order of purchase, rather than choosing a seat themselves. This enables Stan to fill seats from the front, as they are purchased, eliminating sections of empty seats scattered throughout the hall. The Associates saw no reason to change the present system that Stan and Mary have well in hand.

Associates Membership — Discussion moved to consideration of our members list, which gets updated each year in the Spring. At present, there are individuals on the current list who do not attend meetings or volunteer for activities. It was recommended that when Doug Kimmel sends out the announcement of the first meeting, he include a paragraph asking if the member wishes to remain an Associate, and provide a list of activities for members to Volunteer for. It was further suggested that membership in the Associates should operate on a yearly basis: that is, members sign on each Spring to renew their membership. A further thought: that members who have been active and loyal members for many years, and may wish to continue receiving news of our activities and attend meetings, might be offered ‘Honorary’ or ‘Emeritus’ membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 for refreshments. Many thanks to all for a great season and a productive meeting!

Respectfully Submitted, Charlotte Draper