NYS/O-MLA Business Meeting
Held Online Via Zoom
Thursday, November 19, 2020

Note: There were 24 attendees present at this online meeting. Other than those who spoke and are mentioned below, all names cannot be accurately ascertained; therefore all other attendees’ names are omitted from this portion of the minutes.

Chapter Chair Gerry Szymanski called the meeting to order at 3:18 PM.

1. Chair’s Report
   Gerry acknowledged thanks to the following people:
   Jan Guise, head of U. Toronto, for hosting the meeting along with her colleagues
   Kris Shanton, for being Program Chair and being master of ceremonies for the meeting
   James Mason and Rebecca Shaw, members of Program Committee, for launching and monitoring the Zoom meeting
   All presenters at today’s meeting
   Past Chair Jim Farrington for his three years on the Chapter Board
   Rachel Fox von Swearington, previous Past Chair, for planning advice
   Vivian Tompkins, from MLA StEP, for offering post-meeting Happy Hour
   Rick McRae, for secretarial-treasurer duties

   Gerry expressed appreciation to registrants from outside the chapter for attending the NYSO meeting.
   He reported on his attendance at a recent CAML online meeting, as well as the spring NEMLA online meeting.
   He described the NYSO get-together during the MLA national meeting in Norfolk, Va., along with the Chapter Chairs meeting with incoming MLA president Liza Vick.

2. Technical Report
   James Mason reported that the average Zoom attendance at this meeting was in the mid 50s throughout presentation sessions, the numbers slightly dropping during break times. At the time of this business meeting, 24 people were present.
   He mentioned that music was the main emphasis of the 3 breaks, particularly during the lunch break—a recorded performance particularly given for today’s NYSO meeting, in order to replicate a live concert experience.
   James had regrets that there wasn’t an avenue for more interpersonal communication among the members, such as break-out rooms, but it may have been difficult to manage. Still, several people used the chat option. All in all, the zoom technology was successful.
   Gerry acknowledged gratitude to James and Kris for coming to assistance during James MacMillan’s presentation, which temporarily underwent some technical difficulty.

3. Webmaster Report
   Beth Kelly announced the streamlined NYSO membership and registration system now through the MLA site. The biggest change is for the renewal page: the PayPal button is no longer there.
   Beth has organized all .pdfs for previous meetings in order, and they now appear on the web site, and has had to make many emendations to reflect last-minute schedule changes.

4. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

   Membership
In this year of challenges, there is some good news for our chapter: as of today we have 32 members in good standing, which is an increase of 9 over last year’s count. Out of the total, 27 members paid at the $10 regular rate, and 5 at the $5 rate, formerly for students, but expanded to include retirees and paraprofessionals as of this year. This year’s membership count reverses a gradual downward trend in membership since 2016, which had totaled 37 members. Hopefully this incline in membership will continue.

With the assistance of MLA’s Administrative Officer Tracey Rudnick and the MLA Business Office, we were successful in integrating NYSO’s registration system within MLA, to enable one-stop registration for NYSO, MLA, and/or IAML. This streamlining proved to be quite popular: 26 NYSO members joined or renewed their membership via the MLA site, 5 paid with personal check, and 1 member used PayPal. In comparison, 2019 19 members used PayPal and 4 paid by check. Despite the overwhelming use of MLA this year, we will retain the PayPal account, as it remains a useful tool for cross-border payments.

Financial Report

Balance in KeyBank (U.S.) account on July 1, 2020 $3,390.27
Balance in the Royal Bank of Canada account on July 1, 2019 903.59 (USD)
Total assets on July 1, 2020 $4,293.86

INCOME

Membership dues (US + CA) $295 (26 @$10 rate ; 5 @$5 rate)
Meeting registration 0
MLA Chapter Grants 0
Total income by meeting date $295.00

EXPENSES

2020 Fall Meeting expenses $239.22 (music)
PayPal charges .78
Total Expenses $230.00

Balance in the U.S. bank account on November 19, 2020 $3,633.99
Balance in the Canadian bank account on November 19, 2020 903.59 (USD)
Total assets from both bank accounts $4,537.58
Assets after Fall 2020 expenses $4,307.58
This represents a net increase in total assets from the period July 1, 2020- Nov. 27, 2020 of $3.72.

5. Election Results
Trevor Deck was unanimously elected as Vice-Chair/Chair Elect.
Rick McRae was unanimously reelected as Secretary/Treasurer.

6. Old Business

Gerry reported that there was no progress on revising the Chapter Handbook in the preceding year, and suggested that this project remain as a goal for the upcoming year.

7. New Business
Gerry introduced special guest Richard Carlin, Consulting Editor for the Humanities at SUNY Press.
Richard announced new publishing opportunities for SUNY Press’ New Music Series. Book proposals for monographs, textbooks, guidebooks are welcomed, as well as short, introductory volumes on different styles (such as blues, jazz, or punk or hard rock in rock). He said he would also welcome music librarianship-related topics. Although advances to authors are not given, sales royalties are in effect.

Ed Komara mentioned that prior to Richard’s arrival at SUNY Press, music coverage by the publisher was lacking; the music list is a much-appreciated addition. Richard emphasized that authors from all over (not merely from SUNY institutions) are encouraged to submit proposals.

SUNY Press WWW page: https://www.sunypress.edu/
Richard Carlin’s email: Richard.carlin@sunypress.edu

Kris brought up the question of next year’s meeting destination. Rick reminded that the 2021 meeting would be hosted by the Eastman School of Music, to coincide with the school’s centennial celebration, David Peter Coppen as Program Chair.

Gerry reminded attendees that in lieu of the suspended conference fee, they should donate to the MLA Fund. The email address:

Gerry expressed regrets that MLA will not be able to meet in person in Cincinnati this coming year due to Covid, and hopes that the 2022 meeting in Salt Lake City will be possible.

Gerry reminded everyone about the post-meeting Happy Hour, hosted by MLAStEP (MLA Students and Emerging Professionals group).

James brought up the question of archiving the recorded presentations from this meeting (and possible future meetings if they are also online). Several suggested possibilities came up:

- Beth will look into whether MLA website might accommodate archived Zoom recordings
- Rick mentioned that MLA streamed video is via Vimeo
- Gerry clarified the difference between immediate viewability and permanent archiving and mentioned the MLA Archives at University of Maryland (Melissa Wertheimer, Archivist, archivist@musiclibrary.org)
- Gerry suggested to find out what other chapters do concerning archiving
- Rachel reminded that several years ago, NYSO pulled chapter archives from the national MLA Archives (at MLA’s request), and they are currently housed at Eastman. She suggested that the streamed files be hosted by Eastman or another member library, with their URLs be added to the NYSO web site.
- Gerry suggested the University of Rochester’s digital space “URResearch” as a possible destination. Jim Farrington mentioned that the platform is undergoing a major software change these days.
- Gerry noted the irony of MLA consolidating chapter web sites, while divesting from chapter archiving. Rachel reflected MLA Board discussions, that MLA’s sharing chapter infrastructure was a cheaper, more streamlined process, while decentralizing chapters from the MLA Archive could expedite chapter-archive retrieval and reference transactions wherever they are more locally housed.
- For the short-term, Gerry suggested that University Toronto could temporarily house the recorded events of this meeting, and that more long-term solutions could be discussed over the coming year.
Gerry handed over the ceremonial Chair gavel (in the form of a stapler) to Incoming Chair Kris Shanton. Rick acknowledged appreciation to Gerry for his service as Chair. Gerry again expressed thanks to Kris for being Program Chair, not only for today’s chapter meeting, but also for MLA’s coming meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick McRae
Secretary-Treasurer
New York State/Ontario Chapter
Music Library Association