

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT YALE
Minutes of the Fall Meeting of the Council held on November 19, 2009

Present in person: Suhne Ahn, Kathryn Alexander, Myrna Baskin, Robert Blocker, Arthur Broadus, Daniel Harrison (Recording), Carol Heath, Richard Lalli, Robert Lyons, Thomas Masse, Linette Norbeau, Leon Plantinga, Anne Schenck, Wendy Sharp, Penny Snow, Susan Thompson, Mary-Jo Warren, Richard Warren, Craig Wright, Elizabeth Yen.

Present by written proxy: Thomas Dixon, Jeffrey Douma, Frederic Finkelstein, Mary Greer, William Krinsky, Elias Kulukundis, Thornton Lockwood, Bernard Lytton, Sean Maher, Carole Morgan, Robert Morgan, Thomas Murray, Barbara Shailor, Sarah Weiss, Peter West, Dorsey Whitestone, and Lawrence Wilkinson.

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the November 14th, 2008 and May 7th, 2009 Council meetings were approved unanimously.

2. Fall 2009 Newsletter and Mailing List update

Linette Norbeau reported that during the summer of 2009, a student went through lists of former Friends of Music Competition winners and other music prize winners from Yale College and added these names to the Friends' mailing list. The list now has about 1940 names on it.

Gifts in response to the October 2009 mailing appear to be somewhat smaller in amount, but many individual gifts have been received during the first 4 weeks after the mailing, which is encouraging.

3. Financial Report and Fundraising

Elizabeth Yen reported that the Provost's office had given her some detailed financial information in May 2009 after the last Council meeting, which she compared with records that she had been keeping. After reconciling the two and discovering that we had close to \$19,000 available for 2009-2010 allocations instead of \$22,000, she recommended to the Executive Committee in May that the grants allocated for this year be given in two parts instead of all at once, which recommendation the Executive Committee approved by e-mailed votes. The second installment of the 2009-2010 allocations should be paid in early 2010.

Elizabeth also reported that we had earned \$960 in interest during the last fiscal year, and that the current account balance earmarked for the subsidy of undergraduate private music lessons is slightly over \$31,000.

Elizabeth provided some historical data on giving, and corroborated Linette's report that the average contribution appears to be down a bit this year, although it has been only 4 weeks since the October mailing, and additional gifts are expected in December.

After detailing recent mailing costs, Elizabeth reported some significant savings this past year by sending the fall mailing at the non-profit bulk rate.

Two new fundraising initiatives were outlined. The first is a special mailing to Yale College alumni on the Friends' mailing list whose "milestone" reunions are in 2010 (i.e., 5-year increments—thus, the classes of 1945, 1950, 1955, etc. to the class of 2005), letting them know that any gifts to the Friends of Music they make by June 30, 2010 could be credited towards their class reunion gift. This list is about 250 names. The second is a possible planned-giving campaign through the Development Office aimed at selected donors who have

given the Friends of Music consistent smaller dollar annual gifts for many years. This initiative is still in the planning stages.

Suhnne Ahn inquired about how to respond to alumni whom she knew who were involved in music at Yale in some form and were interested in giving perhaps a one-time donation to the Friends, but who do not want to be put on the Friends' mailing list. Elizabeth responded that they could send checks to her or to the Department directly.

4. Department of Music Report

Daniel Harrison reported on the Department's external review, which took place in November. The Department expects the report of the review committee by the end of term. A new system for tracking Friends of Music funding requests from various Departmental classes and organizations was described, and some recent grants to specific undergraduate courses were detailed.

5. Friends of Music Competition and Recital

Daniel Harrison reported that the recital competition had 12 contestants: 4 pianists, 2 violinists, 5 vocalists, and 1 guitarist. Judges were Netta Hadari, Stephanie Yu Lin, and Richard Lalli. The winners were Jessica Oddie, violin, and Lucy Fitz Gibbon, voice. The recital will be on February 21, 2010.

6. Election of Executive Committee and Officers for 2009–2010

Elizabeth Yen reported that the present officers and members of the Executive Committee were willing to serve again for another year. The Council unanimously approved the slate: Elizabeth Yen (Chair), Leon Plantinga (Vice Chair), Linette Norbeau (Treasurer), Daniel Harrison (Secretary), Kathryn Alexander, Robert Blocker, Jeffrey Douma, Richard Lalli, Barbara Shailor, and Wendy Sharp.

7. Other Business

Richard Lalli thanked the Council for its past support of his initiatives, dating back to the first gift for the Music 222 class in the 1990's. He then gave a description of this year's Yale Baroque Opera Project performances, and concluded with a thanks to Elizabeth Yen for her leadership. General applause ensued.

Susan Thompson gave a brief report about the Collection of Musical Instruments, noting that it is in its 43rd year of concerts, which makes it the oldest concert series on historical instruments in the country. She noted that under William Purvis's direction, more master classes have been offered with visiting performers, and she invited students from the Department to participate.

Kathryn Alexander and Wendy Sharp thanked the Friends for their continued support of Yale College New Music and the undergraduate chamber music program, respectively.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.