

Simsbury Friends For Music and the Performing Arts  
Meeting Minutes-November 13, 2017  
Submitted by Marianne Longo

In Attendance: Elisabeth Hodson, Marianne Longo, Melissa Richards, Veronica Grossman, Karen Cantelmo, Christine Lill, Sue Clancy, Lynn Yu, Marie Winiarski, Cheryl Paddock, Danielle Wilson, Angela Griffin

- Approval of October minutes by Karen Cantelmo and Melissa Richards.
- **Membership**
  - Slight increase in membership since last meeting. About \$500 behind this time last year.
  - Suggest adding a button to cover the fee of online donation
  - Suggest adding a “donate now” button
  - New Liaisons: Lynn Tracy at Central School; Lynn Yu at Tootin’ Hills
- **Treasurer’s Report**
  - We have allocated \$29,156 of \$32,875
  - Meadow Farms fundraiser is running a little behind, but we expect late funds to come in
- **Fundraising**
  - Many concerts in December – will arrange for a small ensemble to play music in the lobby area. This was well received at SHS. Tri-m students can get points. Younger kids maybe could have some form of teacher recognition for their effort. Announce winner of card contest / short speech at each concert. Have a table for fundraising.
  - Cheryl Paddock: Magnets. Promotions by Design in Avon. 250 magnets for \$1.61 each; around \$50 for shipping. Approval by committee to order 250 magnets for a cost around \$450.
  - Cheryl Paddock: Antonio’s Fundraise. Can go out via charms at SHS; parent email at elementary schools. Post on Facebook. Marianne will send out via vertical response tool from SFFM&PA. Date of fundraiser is 12/5. 15% of check goes to SFFM&PA, eat in or take out. We will bring flyers to holiday market to promote.
  - Note Cards. Review of designs. Four designs chosen. Logo with verbiage on SFFM&PA along with student’s first name will be on the back of each card. We will package 12 cards per pack and sell for \$10 /pack. Printer will donate the first 500 cards and envelopes. The next 500 cards will be around \$200 for cards and \$60 for envelopes. Decision made to order 1000 cards. Should be ready in 7-10 business days + 2 days for shipping. Card design winners will be announced at schools in AM announcements and pictures of award certificates will be placed in Ovation.
  - Donor appreciation: Will send hand-written thank you notes (on note cards) to top donors.
  - Melissa Richards had 2 posters made to promote SSMF&PA. They have the new logo and they look great. Based on schedule of concerts in December we need 2 more posters. Melissa will have them made.
- **Website Security**
  - We currently use an Amazon host website with Wordpress software. The cost is approximately \$11/month. Sue Clancy noted that the current website is receiving a lot of notifications of attempt to login to the administrator. Most of these attempts are from foreign IP addresses. In order to protect the website contents Sue

- recommends switching to "In Motion." Cost is approximately \$8/month with 1 year pre-paid. Recommend new look / new location. Sue can transfer the web hosting once the invoice is paid. Committee voted in favor of this change.
- **Gala**
    - Tentative Date: February of 2019. Will need to look for a venue in January 2018. Andy Fabian would like to volunteer to assist with Gala planning. Marie Winiarski connected with Simsbury alum Brendan J. Sullivan who is a VHI DJ. The committee discussed the desire to have live music at the gala but maybe ask Brendan to be a host. Would love to see a wide array of talent from Simsbury alum – Jazz piano, percussion and dance as examples. And would love to see the music faculty perform as well. More to come on gala planning.
  - **Director's Report**
    - The Music Department (district wide) spent their professional development day (election day) at Yale University. Theater faculty went to Long Wharf. There were also teachers from Canton and Avon – over 100 teachers participated. There was discussion around Equity in Arts and Music Education and professional development for band, orchestra and chorus as teachers met with faculty from the music department at Yale. It was an exceptional day.
    - The International Thespian Society Conference was a huge success as was Men's Night Out and the Tri-M and ITS Induction ceremony.
    - HSO Discovery Concert (SFFM&PA sponsored) was held at Central and Tootin'
    - HJMS and SHS had musical auditions for Beauty and the Beast and Mary Poppins and rehearsals will soon be underway.
    - Upcoming events include the SHS Alumni Homecoming Alumni Band 11/21/17 when Simsbury plays Avon at home; and winter concerts in December and January.
  - **Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 PM.**