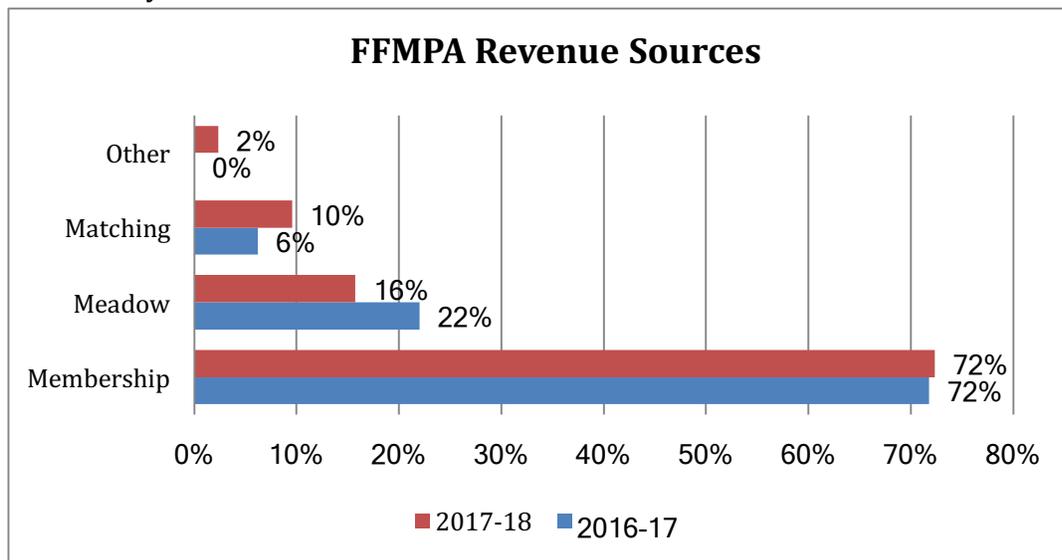


Simsbury Friends For Music and the Performing Arts  
Meeting Minutes-April 2, 2018  
Submitted by Marianne Longo

In Attendance: Angela Griffin, Elisabeth Hodson, Marianne Longo, Lynn Yu, Winiarski, Karen Cantelmo, Melissa Richards, Wanda Kirejczyk, Amy Bobinski

- **Meeting Minutes:** March minutes approval motioned by Karen Cantelmo, seconded by Lynn Yu and accepted.
- **Membership**
  - Since our last meeting we gained an “Arts Benefactor” member. We are slightly ahead of membership funds as compared to this time last year. Elisabeth drafted a new membership letter / form that was reviewed and approved by the group. The new “Friend” level membership dues will be raised from \$10 to \$25. We will have a membership drive in May with a focus on renewal. We will give away a magnet to anyone that renews in May.
  - Angela will contact SCTV to set up an interview for the fall to help drive awareness and membership for SFFM.
  - There was a suggestion that we consider student representation on SFFM
- **Treasurer’s Report**
  - Karen provided an excellent outline of our funding this year as compared to last year



- Despite a reduction in funding from the Meadow Farms fundraiser, we are only \$90 shy of our funds from this time last year. Matching donations and new fundraisers have compensated for the lower return on the Meadow Farms fundraiser.
- We received \$500 back from Dr. Younse from the musical and \$200 back from Colleen Thompson for an event she could not attend. Since our March meeting, we received a request from JoAnna Ferrari to hold another strings clinic. The one she held provided instruction from teaching artists for 120 4<sup>th</sup> grade strings students who attend Tootin’ Hills and Latimer Lane. Following the event, 65 students returned for additional after school strings learning. We granted \$500 toward Ms. Ferrari’s request for an additional strings clinic.

- **Director's Report**

- The middle school musical "Beauty and the Beast" was well done and was well attended.
- The upcoming Spring Play is the Crucible and provides a black box type experience for the actors and the audience.
- Ken Steen from Hartt came in to work with HJMS students in the music tech lab. Pictures from this event will be featured in Ovation.
- Townwide musical festival was a great success, despite the "snow" delay
- Stacie Windisch will be organizing a (non-profit) booster club for Musical Theater – more to come on this
- Angela thanked Elisabeth for penning and sending a letter of support on behalf of Simsbury Friends for Music and Performing Arts to the Selectmen and Finance Board members for the HJMS building project that includes classroom and performance space for music and theater. Elisabeth also shared the letter with the PTO's so that they may amend it and express their support to the Board of Selectman as well. Once the decision has been made to add this project to the referendum, we will pin a post and a link to HJMS on our website to promote communication and support for the project.
- May 23 is Simsbury Scholars; May 31 is SHS awards night. Award discussions are ongoing among the teachers
- April 19-21 is the CMEA Conference. We have a very strong presence
  - CMEA Elementary Honors Choir
  - CMEA Elementary Honors Orchestra
  - CMEA Elementary Honors Band
  - SHS All-State Ensembles
  - CMEA Showcase Ensemble – Simsbury Singers
  - CMEA Showcase Ensemble – SHS Sax Ensemble
  - CMEA Session Presentations: Lisa Abel, Ryan Ford, Angela Griffin

- **Fundraising**

- Wanda discussed our Meadow Farms fundraiser.
  - Incentives vary depending on the purchase
  - Total number of families who participated was significantly decreased this year; Squadron Line participation was exceptionally low compared to prior years
  - About 9% of packets returned with purchase requests
  - Packets were sent to music teachers for distribution
  - Next year: Angela will send a letter to parents and to teachers to encourage participation
  - We will recognize the top fundraisers in Ovation
  - The fundraiser next year will be purchase by check only to ease tracking of orders
  - Direct donation to SFFM will be removed from the Meadow Farms fundraiser and parents will be directed to send membership dues directly to SFFM via check or via the website
- Roni Grossman will present new ideas for fundraising at our next meeting

- Discussion re: sales at concerts of flowers and candy grams. These items sold well at the musical. We will try this at the Townwide Elementary Chorus program at Central School on April 29 at 4:00 PM. About 50 children participate in this chorus. Carnations from Stop & Shop were sold at the musical 1 for \$2 or 3 for \$5 with a note tag. Candy grams were \$2 or 3 for \$5 and contained 3 pieces of candy.
- Elisabeth continues to sell note cards and will bring an inventory balance to the next meeting
- Celebrate Friends: Past and Present Soiree Fundraiser
  - Tentative date March 1, 2019 with snow date March 2; 6-10 PM. This date will be re-evaluated after the district events dates are set in mid-April
  - “Be part of the 30% ... help us fund 100% of music and performing arts programs that enrich the lives of Simsbury students. 30 years, 30% closer
  - 30% needed to fund 100% of requests = \$14,000
  - cabaret performances: alumni, teachers, students
  - Eno Hall
  - Breinar – rent high tops with linens; tables, table skirts
  - Food – donated if possible
  - Drink - ? cash bar; is this possible at Eno, what about liability / insurance
  - Entertainment at entry: jazz, chamber, vocal
  - Performers
  - Silent auction & 50/50 Raffle
  - Publicity (social media, save the date, invites, follow up thank you and results)
  - Ticket Sales: cost, number of attendees needed to raise desired funds
  - Will need to create committees to support success:
    - Venue and Furniture Rental; set up and take down
    - Performances
    - Food / Drink (? Paper ware)
    - Publicity and ticket production; Program
    - Silent Auction
    - Ticket Sales
    - Sponsors
  - Angela suggested a video montage of alumni messages
  - Student volunteers to serve hors d’oeuvres
  - Talent suggestions include the need for a headliner
  - \$75 per couple; \$40 per single and indicate what amount is tax deductible
  - Next steps: start to detail out the committees and budget targets
  - Once we have a date, create a Face Book event page
  - Angela will investigate our eligibility to apply for grant funding through the Greater Hartford Arts Council.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM