Minutes
2008 ROPA Conference
Tuesday, July 29, 2008 – Friday, August 1, 2008

Attendees
Akron Symphony Orchestra
Allentown Symphony
Ann Arbor Symphony
Arizona Opera Orchestra
Atlanta Opera Orchestra
Austin Symphony Orchestra
Boulder Philharmonic
California Philharmonic
California Symphony Orchestra
Canton Symphony Orchestra
Charleston Symphony Orchestra
Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra
Dallas Opera Orchestra
Delaware Symphony Orchestra
El Paso Symphony
Elgin Symphony Orchestra
Erie Philharmonic Orchestra
Florida West Coast Symphony
Fort Wayne Philharmonic
Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra
Grand Rapids Symphony
Hartford Symphony Orchestra
Hollywood Bowl Orchestra
Houston Ballet Orchestra
Houston Grand Opera Orchestra
Huntsville Symphony Orchestra
Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra
Knoxville Symphony Orchestra
Las Vegas Philharmonic
Long Beach Symphony Orchestra
Long Island Philharmonic
Memphis Symphony Orchestra
Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra
Minnesota Opera Orchestra
Mississippi Symphony Orchestra
Napa Valley Symphony
New Haven Symphony Orchestra
New Mexico Symphony Orchestra
Oakland East Bay Symphony
Omaha Symphony Orchestra
Opera Cleveland
Pacific Symphony
Palm Beach Opera Orchestra
Pasadena Pops Orchestra
Pittsburgh Opera Orchestras
Portland Opera Orchestra
Rhode Island Philharmonic
Richmond Symphony
Santa Barbara Symphony
Santa Rosa Symphony
Shreveport Symphony Orchestra
South Bend Symphony
Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra
Spokane Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Silicon Valley
Toledo Symphony Orchestra
West Virginia Symphony
Wichita Symphony Orchestra

Associate Members
Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra
Flint Symphony Orchestra
Green Bay Symphony Orchestra
Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra
Pittsburgh Ballet Orchestra
Richardson Symphony Orchestra
Tulsa Opera Orchestra

Member Orchestras Not Represented
Albany Symphony
Atlanta Ballet Orchestra
Chattanooga Symphony & Opera Orchestra
Dayton Philharmonic
Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra
Hudson Valley Philharmonic
Lexington Philharmonic
Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra
Los Angeles Opera Orchestra
Monterey Symphony
Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra
Proceedings
President Zmich called the Conference to order at 1:06 p.m., Wednesday, August 6, 2003.

Quorum
Secretary Fetherston performed the Roll Call, and determined that there was a quorum, with 55 orchestras represented; 49 Full Members and six Associate Members.

Welcoming Addresses
Ryan Fleur, Executive Director, Memphis Symphony, spoke on leadership.
John Sprott, President, Local 71, and Principal Percussion, Memphis Symphony, addressed the Conference.
Scott Moore, Orchestra Committee Chair, Principal Trumpet, Memphis Symphony, addressed the Conference.

Standing Rules
The Executive Board asked the Conference to adopt The Standing Rules of the 20th ROPA Conference, and the Delegates did so with one dissenting vote.

2002 Minutes
Sharon Street-Caldwell, Las Vegas Philharmonic Delegate, moved to approve the 2002 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Reports
President Zmich delivered the ROPA President Report.
Vice-President Munday delivered the ROPA Vice-President Report.
Secretary Fetherston delivered the ROPA Secretary Report.
Treasurer Danders delivered the ROPA Treasurer Report.
A Motion was made by Ole Latham, Akron Symphony Delegate, to approve Treasurer Danders’ Financial Report. The motion carried unanimously.
A motion was made by Karen Barker, West Virginia Symphony Delegate, to adopt Treasurer Danders’ Budget for FY 2003-2004. The motion carried unanimously.

SSD Address
Janice Galassi, Director of AFM Symphonic Services Division addressed the Conference, with an overview of the state of regional orchestras and SSD.

Seminar
Patricia Polach, ROPA Counsel, gave a seminar entitled “Labor Law 101 and the Duty of Fair Representation.

Member-at-Large Report
Vice-President Munday and Members-at-Large Britt, Downs, Gardner, and Patterson gave a “Member-at-Large Summary Report.” The report outlined some interesting innovative ideas that some orchestras are using for fund raising, and awareness raising, as well as some of the cost containment measures that some orchestra managements are implementing.

Seminar
Paul McCarthy, President of Collective Bargaining Associates, gave a seminar entitled “Developing Regional Orchestra Bargaining Unit Preparedness and Power.”
2004 Conference Location Presentations
Sharon Street-Caldwell, Las Vegas Philharmonic Delegate, offered Las Vegas as the location of the 2004 ROPA Conference.
Bob Burks, Chattanooga Symphony Delegate, offered Chattanooga, Tennessee, as the location of the 2004 ROPA Conference.

AFM and Player Conference Addresses
Tom Lee, AFM President, addressed the Conference.
Florence Nelson, AFM Secretary-Treasurer, addressed the Conference.
Laura Ross, ICSOM Secretary, addressed the Conference.
Elaine Thompson, OCSM Treasurer, addressed the Conference.

Seminar
Patricia Polach, ROPA Counsel, gave a seminar entitled “Bankruptcy”

Reports
Rochelle Skolnick, ROPA Delegate-at-Large to the AFM Convention, reported on the 2003 AFM Convention.
Larry Gardner, ROPA Member-at-Large, reported on the 2003 ASOL Conference.
Delegate-at-Large Rochelle Skolnick, Member-at-Large Gaylon Patterson, and ROPA President Barbara Zmich reported on the AFM Health Care Task Force.

Seminar
Ron Bauers, CPA, gave a seminar entitled “Orchestra Industry Analysis and Report.”

Reports
Members of the Savannah Symphony, the San Jose Symphony Players Association, and the Tulsa Philharmonic gave detailed reports on the status and recent history of their orchestras.

Elections
Craig McNutt recused himself as Chair of the Nominations Committee, so that he could run for a position as Member-at-Large.
The ROPA Conference elected the following officers by acclamation:
Vice-President: Jennifer Munday, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra
Secretary: Tom Fetherston, Dayton Philharmonic
Editor, The Leading Tone: B Stewart Williams, Dallas Opera Orchestra for a 1-year term, to complete the term of Paul Castillo
Member-at-Large: Larry Gardner, Fresno Philharmonic
Member-at-Large: Craig McNutt, Rhode Island Philharmonic

Seminars
Debbie Newmark, AFM Director of Media, and Jennifer Munday, ROPA Vice-President, gave a seminar entitled “So your Orchestra Wants to Self-Produce Media? – A How-To Guide.”
Lenny Leibowitz gave a seminar entitled “Bargaining in Today’s Economic Climate.”

2004 Conference Location
A secret ballot vote of the full-member Delegates determined that their wish was that the 2004 ROPA Conference be held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Resolutions
The Delegates adopted the following Resolutions:
Resolution 1

Whereas,
The mission of ROPA has to do with communication; and,

Whereas,
To efficiently communicate as a cross-country organization with a continually changing set of Delegates, we need to maintain an up-to-date database of contact information; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That
Bylaws Article VI, Section 2 shall be amended as follows:
The outgoing Delegate of each member orchestra shall forward the names and contact information of its any newly elected Delegate and/or Alternate Delegate to the ROPA Secretary within two weeks of the election.

Resolution 2

Whereas,
Danna Sundet, as Delegate, and as ROPA Member-at-Large, has been a passionate advocate for ROPA since 1997; and

Whereas,
She has given those years of her life with aplomb and dignity; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That
Danna Sundet be given warmest thanks, with congratulations on a job well done, by the membership of the Regional Orchestra Players’ Association.

Resolution 3

Whereas,
Richard Totusek has provided parliamentary expertise and collegiality to ROPA for many years; and

Whereas,
Those traits were sorely missed at the 2003 ROPA Conference; and

Whereas,
The ROPA Delegates and officers look forward to Richard’s return to the ROPA Conference in 2004 and years afterward; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That
The Delegates and officers of ROPA express their sincere appreciation for Richard Totusek’s friendship and knowledge, and we express our collective wish that he will continue as our parliamentarian for years to come.

Resolution 4

Whereas,
Betsy Start, as ROPA Secretary, worked earnestly to further the interests of ROPA; and

Whereas,
She gave years of her life to ROPA with courage and fortitude; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That
The permanent title of ROPA Secretary Emerita be conferred on Betsy Start, and she be given heartfelt thanks, with congratulations on a job well done, by the membership of the Regional Orchestra Players’ Association.

Resolution 5

Whereas,
Marc Facci, as Delegate, and as ROPA Vice-President, promoted ROPA’s interests with quiet strength; and

Whereas,
He gave those years of his life with essential enthusiasm; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That
The permanent title of ROPA Vice-President Emeritus be conferred on Marc Facci, and he be given the sincerest thanks, with congratulations on a job well done, by the membership of the Regional Orchestra Players’ Association.

Resolution 6

Whereas,
Ann Drinan, as Delegate, Vice-President, and ROPA President, has been a passionate advocate for ROPA for many years; and

Whereas,
She served those years of her life with dignity, courage, and sincere devotion; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That
The permanent title of President Emerita be conferred on Ann Drinan, and she be given the most genuine thanks, with congratulations on a job well done, by the membership of the Regional Orchestra Players’ Association.

All six resolutions carried unanimously.

Report
A report on the history and current status of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic was presented by Donald Hilsberg, ROPA Delegate; Susan Greene, CSP Executive Director; Nathan Kahn, String Bass with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, and negotiation consultant from AFM SSD; Lenny Leibowitz, Counsel.

Panel
A discussion panel with SSD was held, entitled “Learning From the Past; Planning For the Future.”

Adjourned
President Barbara Zmich adjourned the 2003 ROPA Conference at 5:52 p.m. on Saturday, August 9, 2003.

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Tom Fetherston, ROPA Secretary

Approved 8/9/2004