**Friends of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra**

**2019-2020 Annual Report**

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**Mission Statement**

**The mission of the Friends of the SPCO is to support the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra through educational, social and fundraising activities.**

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# Letter from the Co-Presidents

March 2021

Dear Friends:

2019-2020 proved to be a year like no other for the Friends, for the SPCO, and the entire arts world.

While we anticipated many of our usual activities, we watched as our plans changed minute to minute.

The youth chamber music competition went virtual, the plans for the luncheons were postponed, and the meetings and annual meeting were held via Zoom.

We were able to get a new venture started, that of establishing the Friends Archives at the University of Minnesota’s Performing Arts Archives located in Andersen Library on the West Bank campus.

However, our membership held steady, we watched the SPCO concerts on our screens and as an added bonus, heard personal stories and saw glimpses of the musician’s home lives.

Part of the magic of being Friends is meeting the staff and musicians in informal settings as well as musical ones, and we have gotten to know each other in ways that we had not foreseen when the pandemic started.

Above all, we felt hope that we would soon be back in the concert hall.

A big change at the end of the 2019 season is that we decided the Friends could no longer run the Youth Chamber Music Competition by ourselves, and started to search for a partner to help us. A series of strategic plan discussions were planned, along with request for proposals to manage the competition. We plan to have a new partner in 2021, details to be announced soon.

Thank you, faithful Friends for being there for our wonderful SPCO and for your steadfast support during the year.

In gratitude,

Mary Cunningham and Inez Bergquist, Co Presidents

Friends of the SPCO 2019-20

# Friends of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Board of Directors Position Description

The Friends of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra is an independent volunteer organization whose purpose is to support and promote the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. It was organized from the Women’s Philharmonic Association in 1977 and was incorporated in 1984.

The Board of Directors of the Friends is a working board with significant responsibilities. Board members accomplish the mission and goals of the Friends through assignments on working committees as well as serving on the full Board.

The committees function continuously through individual assignments, telephone and email communications and additional small group meetings. The chairperson of each committee writes a report containing pertinent information about the event which becomes part of the whole committee report at the Annual Meeting.

Each Board member is important to the accomplishment of the Friends mission and goals. Each member serves a two-year term with a maximum of six consecutive years. Board members need to be able to devote effort and commitment to their positions on the Board, including paying their yearly dues by early September, regular attendance at Board meetings and serving on at least one committee.

The areas to choose among include: Education, Membership, Special Events, Public Relations and Website, and Youth Chamber Music Competition. Board members are encouraged to purchase a season ticket package to the SPCO concerts and to share their event invitations and concert experiences with friends.

The Friends website: www.friendsofthespco.org

# Friends of the SPCO 2019-2020 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Friends consists of from 12-50 members as determined by the board. They serve a maximum of three consecutive two year terms and are elected at the annual meeting.

Inez Bergquist, Co-President

Mary Cunningham, Co-President

Cecil Chally, Treasurer

Sue Danielson Bretheim, Assistant Treasurer

Sandra Browning, Co- Secretary

Ginger Bailey, Co-Secretary

Donna Ahrens

Betty Andrews

Jo Bailey

Lynne Beck

Kay Bendel

Lynne Bulger

Carole Boyum

Elizabeth Buschor

Penny Chally

Annette Conklin

Cass Dalglish

Mary Frederick

Karen Golden

Carolynn Johnson

Kathryn Johnson

Roberta Kagin

Janet Kampf

Nancy Kapps

Betty Kok

Karen Larsen

Patti Limbacher

Mary Maguire

Andrea McCue

Mary McDiarmid

Sue Metzger

Ann Miller

Ruth Murphy

Barbara Osadcky

Mary Patton

Betty Reichert

Roxanne Sands

Katie Scarfone

Inge Schwochau

Joy Sorich

Sherry Spence

Cj Suchta

Voni Swenson

Linda van Dooijeweert

# SPCO Liaisons

Lindsey Hansen - Director of Development, SPCO Staff Contact

Lynn Erickson, SPCO Musician Liaison

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the SPCO 2019-20

**Friends of the SPCO**

**Annual Board Meeting Minutes   
June 2, 2020**

Members present via Zoom conference call: Donna Ahrens, Betty Andrews, Ginger Bailey, Jo Bailey, Marilyn Barnard, Lynne Beck, Kay Bendel, Inez Bergquist, Carole Boyum, Sandra Browning, Cecil Chally, Penny Chally, Annette Conklin, Mary Cunningham, Cass Dalglish, Mary Frederick, Joan Gacki, Carolynn Johnson, Kathryn Johnson, Ellen Lillemoen, Mary McDiarmid, Ruth Murphy, Mary Patton, Joy Sorich, Sherry Spence, Connie Suchta, Linda van Dooijeweert, Connie Wilensky.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Inez Bergquist at 11:30 AM. A quorum was present.

Lynn Erickson, Kyu-Young Kim, Josh Koestenbaum, Jon Limbacher, and Matt Thueson from the SPCO were present for the opening portion of the meeting.

Jon Limbacher greeted the Friends and expressed appreciation for the early gift of $20,000.00. During this difficult pandemic, the SPCO is recalibrating the season to reflect the interests and passions of the orchestra members; is continuing to reach out to its audience through digital media; and is striving to meet its commitments to the musicians and staff.

Kyu-Young Kim noted that the SPCO is reflecting on the power of diversity and committing much time and effort to reach all people.

Lynn Erickson, our liaison, and Josh Koestenbaum sent greetings from the members of the orchestra and expressed gratitude for the Friends’ support.

Matt Thueson gave a presentation on the orchestra’s digital media strategy. The principal component of this strategy is the Concert Library which provides free material to online users at any time. Due to the SPCO’S early investment in this technology, it has been possible to continue to serve and even expand its audience during the covid crisis.

**Approval of June 2019 Annual Board Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of last year’s Annual Board Meeting were approved in advance of this meeting by a mail vote with 54 members participating.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Cecil Chally reported that there is a total of $39,463.15 in the Bremer Bank checking and money market accounts, putting the Friends’ finances in good shape.

The Bremer Bank total includes a balance forward of approximately $18, 385.00 from the Competition which was not expended this year. Membership income was $11,000

Expenses for website development were $2199.50. Geoff Myers is working with us on this project. There will be unknown further costs in the future. $961.00 of the web expense was paid by the Competition fund.

This year’s Friends’ gift of $20,000.00 was sent early to the SPCO.

We still owe out of the checking account balance $6,000.00 from the Larsen grant which was originally for Fanfare and now is for the Connect program. The funds will be sent to the SPCO in June.

There was roughly $6,600.00 in the money market fund for membership development and other issues. The funds budgeted for the upgrade of the membership computer program totaled $4,500.00. The down payment of $2,200.00 for this work was taken from those funds.

**Annual Report 2018-2019**

Donna Ahrens presented highlights from the 2018-2019 Annual Report. The full report is posted on the Friends of the SPCO website and was developed by Donna and Mary Cunningham.

We celebrated the SPCO’s 60th Anniversary season which began in September. In early October we learned that the SPCO musicians and their union had ratified a new 4 year contract. In recognition of that, they gave a first ever Benefit Concert in November 2018 with the proceeds going to the musicians as part of their total compensation.

The Friends held several successful special events for members including: a Bluegrass themed evening at the Summit Rathskeller; an event at the Minnesota Museum of American Art; and a style show with fashions from Scarborough Fair.

The 8th Annual Friends of the SPCO Youth Chamber Music Competition was held at Hamline University. The winning ensemble played for an SPCO concert in May.

The Friends hosted a Welcome Back Luncheon in September and an Appreciation Luncheon for the SPCO musicians and staff.

SPCO members volunteered at the SPCO education programs for children including the Family Arts Blast at the Ordway.

The Friends annual gift to the SPCO for 2018-2019 was $25,000.00 in addition to a $1,000.00 donation to the Musician Appreciation Concert. The Friends also gave $300.00 in memorials to the SPCO.

**Friends Par Excellence Awards**

Mary Cunningham announced that Mary Patton and Ellen Lilllemoen were selected as the recipients of this award for their work as co-chairs of the highly successful Daniel Freeman Lecture Series. For five years they have coordinated all aspects of this series including working with Joan Gacki to create the flyers and working with the church staff to set up the meeting space. A card and gift will be sent to the two recipients.

**Ultimate Friends Awards**

Inez Bergquist announced that Joan Gacki and Barbara Osadcky are this year’s award recipients.

Joan has been indispensable to the Friends for her photography at events and especially at the Youth Chamber Music Competition. She has also helped with the Silent Auction and has assisted the Events Committee with their communications and publications.

Barbara has been the long-time treasurer for the Friends and has helped with receptions and has always been there to help with whatever was needed. Her baking skills, especially her brownies, have been much appreciated. Barbara was not able to attend this meeting, but a Zoom call will be scheduled with her in the future to recognize her as the recipient of this award.

Cards and special gifts will be sent to the two recipients.

**Proposed Changes to Friends By-Laws**

Cass Dalglish reported on an update to the by-laws regarding the makeup of the Finance Committee. As now defined, the committee will consist of at least five of any of the following: at least one President, the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, a Competition Chair, and at large members as determined by the Nominating Committee. This allows representation across the experience of the Board, preservation of institutional memory, and flexibility without having to amend the by-laws as times change. This amendment was approved by an earlier mail vote with 54 members participating.

**Nominations for Officers, Board, and New Members**

Donna Ahrens gave the report for the Nominating Committee.

The following new Board members were approved with 54 votes by mail: Marilyn Barnard, Ellen Lillemoen, and Connie Wilensky.

**Recognitions and Farewells**

Donna Ahrens recognized the contributions of the following ten Board Members who are rotating off the Board after six years of service: Ginger Bailey, Jo Bailey, Lynne Beck, Kay Bendel, Mary Frederick, Karen Larsen, Mary McDiarmid, Sue Metzger, Mary Patton, and Sherry Spence.

Inez Bergquist also noted that Joan Gacki has retired from the PR Committee and that Katie Scarfone has retired early from the Board.

Thanks were expressed to Donna Ahrens, Annette Conklin, and Roberta Kagin for their leadership in putting on a successful Youth Chamber Music Competition under difficult circumstances.

Mary Cunningham is rotating off as co-president. Mary’s support for all the Friends’ activities and especially for the Competition were recognized are greatly appreciated.

The Friends will send birthday greetings to Betty Myers, one of the original incorporators of the Friends, on her 100th birthday

The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM by Board President Inez Bergquist.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Browning

Recording Secretary

# Internal Audit Report 2019-20

Minutes from Friends of the SPCO Internal Audit,

Conducted via Zoom

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Present: Kay Bendel, Inez Bergquist, Sue Danielson Bretheim, Cecil Chally, Annette Conklin Attendees received the following materials: Lin Shurtleff’s year-end report, Kay Bendel’s Conducting the Audit overview, and the August 2019 meeting minutes.

Assistant Treasurer Sue Danielson Bretheim called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. She thanked Kay Bendel for setting a high bar for handling the audit procedure, and Cecil Chally for stepping in as treasurer this past year.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Cecil Chally announced that he had opened a money market account for the Friends. The sav­ings account has been moved into it. (The savings account has not been closed but is dor­mant.) We have just one checking account. Cecil, the depositor, writes the checks. Inez said that Lin Shurtleff, the bookkeeper, writes the thank-you notes to donors to the Friends.

Kay Bendel expressed concern that the bank’s financial statements were not made available to the Audit Committee to verify the report. Investment accounts need to be reconciled with in­vestment statements or there is no paper trail/verification process. Cecil will look into it.

YEAR END SUPPORT FOR THE SPCO

Our year-end gift of $20,000 was given to The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra in March, about three months ahead of time, and they were very grateful. Kay Bendel wondered if the $6,000 received from the Larsen Fund in January had yet been sent to the SPCO. Inez said she’d been in ongoing contact with John Larsen about future Larsen Fund gifts [Note on the Larsen Fund: Historically the fund provided $6,000/year to the Friends, who then awarded it to the SPCO pre-concert Fanfare program. Fanfare was discontinued by the SPCO, and the funds this year, received in January, were to be used for the CONNECT program, which is a partnership be­tween the SPCO and 10 Minneapolis and St Paul public schools).]

A question: Should the balance sheet “Retained Earnings” line be adjusted to reflect the 2019-20 grant from the Larsen Fund? Cecil will follow up with Lin Shurtleff on this.

COMPETITION ISSUES

Annette Conklin pointed out an error in the Youth Chamber Competition expenses: A check, for $180 made out Simdex LLC And another for $150 to GoDaddy for domain renewal should be attributed to the Friends of the SPCO website rather than the Competition website.

Under Other Income/Expenses, a reference to the “Whitacre Competition Fund” should be changed to the “Competition Fund.” Sue will follow up with Lin Shurtleff on these items.

There was some question as to whether all of the winners in the 2020 competition had cashed their checks. This will need to be positively verified. Sue and Cecil will follow up on this.

OTHER BOOKKEEPING/FINANCE QUESTIONS

Kay Bendel asked for the name of the new tax accountant, and wondered if that person had a connection with the SPCO or the Friends of the SPCO. She suggested that the Friends Board of Directors be notified about the appointment.

Once they are completed, corrections, additions and adjusted balances to this audit will be sent to the Internal audit committee for their final approval.

The meeting ended at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Annette Conklin, note taker

# Balance Sheet for the Friends of the SPCO, 7/1/19-6/30/20



# Committee Reports 2019-20

## Nominating Committee Report 2019-20

The members of the Nominating Committee were Penny Chally, Carolynn Johnson, Cj Suchta, Joan Gacki as the non-board member at large, and Donna Ahrens, Nominating Chair.

Members of the Friends Board who have served for 6 years and therefore need to rotate off the Board received a personal letter thanking them for their work and dedication to our organization.

Nominations for Officer positions as well as Committee Chair positions were filled. There were five nominations for Directors to the Friends Board. Directors of the present Board were canvassed as to their willingness to continue with their terms on the Board.

The Nominating Committee prepares the slate of Officers, Committee Chairs, and new Directors to be sent out with the Annual Meeting/Luncheon Notice a month before the Annual Meeting (June 2, 2020).

The Nominating Committee of the Friends of the SPCO is pleased to present this slate of Officers, Committee Chairs and New Directors to the Board for 2020-2021. (\* denotes Non-Board Committee Chair).

**Friends of the SPCO Officers, Committee Chairs and   
Directors of the Board Officers**

President Inez Bergquist

Treasurer  Cecil Chally

Assistant Treasurer Sue Danielson Bretheim

Recording Secretary Sandra Browning

Corresponding Secretary Ellen Lillemoen

**Committee Chairs**

By-laws Cass Dalglish

Daniel Freeman’s Classes Mary Patton\*, Ellen Lillemoen

Education Jo Bailey\*, Karen Golden

Government Issues Betty Reichert

Membership Penny Chally, Kathryn Johnson, Mary Cunningham

Nominating 2020-2021 Mary Cunningham

Special Events Lynne Beck\*

Assistant Chair Ann Miller

Public Relations & Website TBD

Youth Music Competition TBD

**New Directors of the Board**

Dr. Marilyn Adlin-Barnard

Ellen Lillemoen

Connie Wilensky

Special Note: There were no events or educational activities this year due to Covid-19. The following committees postponed or cancelled their events this year:

## Daniel Freeman Lecture Series, 2019-20

Mary Patton and Ellen Lillemoen, Co-Chairs

## Government Issues, 2019-20

Betty Reichert, Chair

## Education Series 2019-20

Jo Bailey, Chair, Education Committee

## Special Events 2019-2020

Lynne Beck and Ann Miller Co-Chairs

## Conversation with Books 2019-20

Andrea McCue and Kay Bendel, co-chairs Special Events

## Public Relations, 2019-20

Joan Gacki, Chair

## Membership Committee, 2019-20

Penny Chally, CJ Suchta, and Kathryn Johnson, Chairs

The Membership Committee spearheaded improvements in the membership capabilities of the Friends website in the summer of 2020 with Geoff Myers of Simdex.. Added were the ability to sign up for events, pay for memberships online and other enhancements.

We had a membership of 170 people in 2019-20, including 126 who are part of a couple. This represents $12,005.00 in membership income.

**Friends of the SPCO Youth Chamber Music Competition 2020**

The 2020 competition was something of a roller-coaster ride as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Despite the challenges, we were able to hold a successful competition thanks to Friends volunteers, the musicians and their coaches, and our project assistant.

The competition guidelines required each music group to submit one work of 10 minutes or less; the entry charge for each group was $50. We received eight applications, three in the Junior Division and five in the Senior Division. Seven groups were selected to move to the Finalists Recital.

For the first time, on the recommendation of the competition Advisory Board, two of the three judges for the initial video round were from out of state. The first-round video judges were Immanuel Davis, flute (University of Minnesota); Min-Jeong Koh, violin (University of Oklahoma School of Music); and Laura Thielke, cello (Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Massachusetts).

The finals round was scheduled to be held on March 15 at Hamline University’s Sundin Hall. The four judges for the finals were Jay Fishman (conductor, Minnesota Sinfonia); Janet Horvath (cello); Merilee Klemp (oboe); and Laura Sewell (cello). However, amid growing warnings about the nationwide spread of the coronavirus and after consulting public health officials, we decided to cancel the live finals round and replace it with an online finals round. All seven finalist ensembles submitted videos of their performances, which were posted online for the judges to evaluate. The finals judges reviewed the performances on schedule, and we were able to announce the results of the competition just a little under two weeks after the original date of the finals recital.

Although it was disappointing that the live final round had to be cancelled, the musicians, coaches, and primary contacts for the seven groups were committed to competing in the competition, and all of them prepared virtual performances to be judged online. In the Senior Division, first place went to the Rivendell Trio; second place was awarded to the Fiati Quintet (a winds quintet); and third place went to Trio Luminoso. A Judges Discretionary Prize was awarded to the Lobkowicz Quartet. In the Junior Division, the Andromeda Strings quartet won first place; second place was a tie between Quartet Spiritoso and the Kanoma Trio.

An unexpected positive outcome of the reconfigured competition was the close relationships that we developed with the music groups through our sustained contact with them in March and April.

Thanks are due to all of the Friends who worked for the competition. Roberta Kagin worked with the judges throughout the competition and provided positive energy when we confronted challenges. Annette Conklin, coordinator of the competition for its first nine years, was a tremendous help from start to finish. Kay Bendel, who retired last year as finance chair for the competition, played a major role in contacting donors and soliciting donations, which totaled $13,960; the majority of our contributions come from the Friends of the SPCO. Sue Danielson Bretheim, in her first year as finance chair, did an admirable job of managing competition finances. Joan Gacki kept the Friends membership informed about the competition through posts on the Friends website and group emails. Sherry Spence handled the details of soliciting and managing ads for the competition program and helped complete the many end-of-competition tasks. Sherry, Annette and Kay coordinated mailing of the programs to our donors. Barbara Osadcky, who was managing the reception, took charge of cancelling the order and contacting volunteers on short notice.

It was a successful competition and I was honored to serve as chair. However, managing it entailed significant effort, especially during the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic. The Friends board is currently pursuing alternatives to managing the competition internally.

Respectfully,

Donna Ahrens, coordinator

Friends of the SPCO Youth Chamber Music Competition

# President’s Council/Past Presidents

Former Presidents of the Friends become members of the President’s Council and can serve in an advisory capacity to the Board. (\* Denotes deceased members).

Years President(s)

1975-77 Lola May Thompson

1977-79 Ann Meyer\*

1979-81 Pat Whitacre\*

1981-83 Yvonne Momsen\*

1983-85 Betty Zats\*

1985-87 Jo Bailey

1987-89 Dona Woolfrey

1989-91 Betty Reichert

1991-93 Mary Ann Okner

1993-95 Carol Damberg\*

1995-97 Mary Jo Monson\*

1997-99 Jean Humphries\*

1991-2001 Mary Frederick

2001-03 Karen Larsen and

Sherry Spence

2003-05 Gwen Crabb and

Debbie Koop

2005-07 Beth Thornton

2007-08 Kay Bendel and

Mary Frederick

2008-10 Annette Conklin and

Sherry Spence

2010-11 Carolynn Johnson

2011-12 Carolynn Johnson and

Katie Scarfone

2012-13 Katie Scarfone and

Inez Bergquist

2013-14 Carol Damberg\*,

Katie Scarfone and

Carolynn Johnson

2014-16 Betty Andrews and

Penny Chally

2016-17 Penny Chally and

Lynne Beck

2017-18 Donna Ahrens and Lynne Beck

2018-19 Donna Ahrens and Mary Cunningham

2019-20 Mary Cunningham and Inez Bergquist

2020-21 Inez Bergquist

**Ultimate Friends**

Ultimate Friends are chosen by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors in recognition of exceptional support and service which furthers the mission of the Friends. The award is presented at the annual meeting.

Year Recipient

1992 Skip James

1993 Steve Fox

1995 Tim Brown\*

1997 Louise King\*

1999 Pat Whitacre\* and Lola May Thompson

2000 Jo Bailey

2001 Betty Reichert

2002 Craig Olson\*

2003 Gail LaFave and Gail Foreman

2004 Inge Schwochau

2005 John and Karen Larsen

2006 Daniel Freeman

2007 Carm Lennon and Carolyn Collins

2008 Thomson Reuters

2009 Catherine Lupori\*, Ruth Bromach and Judie Flahavan

2010 Betty Zats, Kay Bendel

2011 Lola May Thompson

2012 Theresa Gienapp

2015 Carol Nimlos, Scott and Kathy Heiderich

2016 Annette Conklin and House of Hope Presbyterian Church

2017 Chuck Ullery

2019 Alicia McQuerry

2020 Joan Gacki and Barbara Osadcky

# Emeritus/Emerita Directors

Emeritus/Emerita Directors are bestowed upon those members who have given exceptional service to the Friends over a long period of time. The individuals are honored at the annual meeting.

2010 Maggie Wilson

2011 Lola May Thompson

2014 Betty Zats\*

\*Deceased

# Friends Par Excellence

Friends Par Excellence are chosen by the Executive Committee of the Board and presented to those who have shown outstanding service during the year to the Friends. The award is given at the annual meeting.

Year Recipient

2014 Carolynn Johnson, Carol Damberg, Katie Scarfone

2015 Joan Gacki

2016 Mary Cunningham and Linda van Dooijeweert

2017 Lola May Thompson and Gail LaFave

2018 Betty Andrews and Andrea McCue

2019 Penny Chally and Carolynn Johnson

2020 Mary Patton and Ellen Lillemoen

**2019-20 Annual Report**



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