



Minutes of the Officers & Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, September 18 at the offices of BMI

Brittain Ashford (Administrator)	Present
Katie Baron (Legal Counsel)	Present
Marco Berrocal	Present
Eugene Caprioglio	Present
Carol Cuellar	Present
Steve Culbertson	Present
Daniel Dorff	Present
Kathy Fernandes	Present
David Flachs	Present
Sean Flahaven	Absent
Evan Hause	Present
Lauren Keiser	Present
Jim Kendrick. (Legal Counsel)	Absent
Sonya Kim	Absent
Kathleen Marsh (President)	Present
Zizi Mueller	Present
Erin Rogers	Present
Norman Ryan	Present
Jeff Schroedl	Present <i>via phone</i>
John Shorney	Absent
Todd Waldman	Present

Todd Vunderink and Mendy Varga were present as Committee members.

**Call to order (Marsh) – 10:04AM**

**Approval of Minutes** – Approved as submitted.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Erin Rogers gave a basic report and suggested that the MPA should consider moving accounts to different banks so that all funds were protected by the FDIC. The Board discussed some options, including online banks for MPA CDs. Erin will investigate further and bring information to the next meeting. The report was approved as submitted.

**Old Business**

**Mandatory Deposit Requirement:** Katie Baron reported that the Copyright Office announced an overhaul to their system in the last few weeks; Katie will give a report at the next meeting.

**New Business**

**MPA/Musicians Union:** Lauren Keiser initiated the conversation, stating that musician unions are handcuffing symphony orchestras in their ability to make recordings, especially for new music.

He urged the Board to consider a dialog between the unions and the MPA, as our organization has little to lose if the unions are irritated by our actions. He stressed that it was important to start diplomatically and reach out to strong locals (LA, Chicago, New York) to make the case for composers. He stated that the unions would likely be averse to being seen as anti-cultural or anti-composer. Lauren stressed the importance of having recording available for personal and promotional use.

Zizi Mueller stated that there were some other organizations that were interested in speaking to the unions on this matter and that perhaps we could partner with them to start this dialog. Norman added that there have been similar issues with several opera companies.

The concern of the Musicians Union is that musicians are not being compensated for recordings, even if they are paid for the performance.

Lauren requested that the Board approve an initiative to start the conversation and permission to speak with the head of the National Union. Norman Ryan and Daniel Dorff volunteered to brainstorm further; these activities will be a branch of the Performance Committee.

### **2014-2016 MPA Agenda**

President Marsh opened the floor to the Board, asking if there were any ideas or projects that were of interest to anyone at the table.

Given the climate in Washington, Daniel Dorff asked if it would be a pertinent time to think about lobbying. Legal counsel, Katie Baron, responded that it depends on what we would want to accomplish. If the entire law is re-written there are a lot of major things that could be discussed. When the laws were revamped in 1976 it was a fifteen or twenty year process, so it would need to be a strategic decision as to when we would get involved; it would be best to wait until there were more formed ideas circulating with the Department of Justice, as associated costs can add up quickly. Strategically, when it would be the most effective, she could not say. She would speak to Jim for insight on this matter.

Daniel suggested that changes to the law could be a good topic for the Annual Meeting.

Todd recommended that we partner with NMPA, as they are sure to be having the same conversation. Kathy reminded the Board that the MPA is not structured to lobby, Katie confirmed that we would need to work through another organization for all lobbying purposes.

Zizi suggested that we have an official update at every Board meeting to clarify activities taking place in Washington and other pertinent copyright reform info. Evan Hause added that it could be valuable to have outside counsel attend meetings. The Board agreed that this could be very beneficial; Kathy proposed a formal, legal update at each of our meetings. Katie Baron added that, in addition to outside counsel, it could be constructive to have someone from the Copyright Office at least once a year.

In addition to the lobbying and legal efforts discussed, Lauren Keiser added that the Educational Licensing Committee has not had time to meet. He hopes that the committee will have time to discuss in the coming weeks and that he will have more to share in December.

### **Preliminary Budget Review**

Kathleen Marsh pointed out that the MPA is financially healthy and that if we approved the budget in its current form we would be on a good track. The Board lingered on a few items, namely the Annual Meeting, though appeared comfortable with the figures as presented. Kathleen Marsh spoke to the NMPA's request for additional funds; the Board discussed the value of NMPA work on behalf of the MPA to date. Jeff Schroedl stated that Natalie's work has been prompt and detailed. It was asked why they were requesting the additional \$10,000, it was speculated that they might be in need of additional operating funds. Both Kathleen and Jeff stated that the MPA has yet to hit a wall with the amount of takedowns we are requesting and that we could get more out of their services.

Kathy Fernandes made a request for \$5,000 for the National Music Council to co-sponsor their October conference in Nashville, which was approved unanimously for immediate payment.

Lauren requested an additional \$5,000 for the ICMP anti-theft program. No additional figures were added. The Board will vote on the budget, with the amendment, at our November meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

**Annual Meeting:** The Board discussed alternate events and dates to coincide with the various NMPA (June 17/18) and AIMP (June 17) activities in June. Tuesday the day before the AIMP luncheon, an early morning session Thursday or Friday, June 19 are some options. The hope is that by holding our event in the context of the other events we would be able to facilitate more communication between the organizations and publishers. It was pointed out that a Friday session would make for a very long week for attendees. A late morning/lunch session on Thursday seemed to be the popular date/time, potentially starting at 10 with a long luncheon, ending the day at 2. The Board agreed that programming the day would be very important.

**Contribution:** No report.

**Copyright and Licensing:** Adding to the earlier conversation, Katie said she would be happy to give legal updates when outside counsel was not able to join us.

**Curriculum:** No report.

**Digital Piracy/Tech:** \*See report under *Budget* discussion

**Educational Contacts & Trade Relations:** Lauren stated that the MPA will engage in more outreach and networking this year.

**Engraving/Production/Revere:** Daniel Dorff reported that Finale has been sold to a physical training/endurance app. The new owners have suggested, via their own press release, that physical endurance and composition are closely related. This seemed to be somewhat confusing to many at the table.

He also reported that he would speak with Robert Sutherland, Revere Chair, about how Revere judges are selected for the coming year.

**Finance/Audit:** Todd Waldman reported that the MPA should conduct an internal audit this year. Given our records, this should be a simple process.

**History:** Lauren will be in touch with Sibley in the coming months regarding the work done so far on behalf of the committee. Everyone agreed that what was presented at the Annual Meeting was very enlightening.

**ICMP:** Lauren will attend the next ICMP Board meeting November 4 - 5 in Brussels.

**Membership:** The Board approved applications for the American Composers Alliance and Art of Sound Music. They have requested additional information regarding Vanderbilt Music, asking for clarification regarding Lyra vs. Vanderbilt Music. After some discussion the Board also voted a temporary *no* for OnlineSheetMusic.

**MPA/MLA/MOLA Joint Committee:** No report.

**Nominating Committee:** Zizi Mueller of Boosey & Hawkes will resume her Board post.

**Performance Committee:** Norman Ryan reported that Opera American would retire Media Booths for the coming year and instead focus on other promotional activities. Trivia was a great success at the last meeting and will likely happen again. Opera America is scheduled for May 6-8, 2015 and the League of America Orchestra Conference is scheduled for May 27-29 in Cleveland.

**Press/Publicity:** No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brittain Ashford, MPA Admin, on behalf of  
Sonya Kim, Secretary