

## Minutes for Samohi Orchestra Parents Association (OPA) General Membership Meeting Monday, May 4, 2020 Virtual Meeting

**Call to Order:** OPA Co-President Ann Raziel called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

1. Directors Report and Calendar Review (Director Aiello): Audition week took place, it was challenging for the students to upload videos and they were not penalized if they were a bit delayed in submitting. Comments were uploaded for the students on their auditions. The orchestra placements with students listed by ID number will be posted after consulting with the middle school orchestra directors. This will likely occur by the end of this month. Re-auditions will be offered at the end of summer. Symphony and Philharmonic have put together clips of Beethoven symphonies, students are doing music theory assignments, turning in practice logs; it is challenging to teach under the current circumstances. Kiwanis solo competition is coming up.
2. Honoring the Seniors (Lily Stern and Jason Aiello): There is a committee working on honoring seniors. They concluded that a virtual concert was not a good option. Instead they will put together a senior slide show and an orchestra "yearbook" to honor the seniors, and seniors have been asked to complete a form in preparation for this. It is unclear how awards will be given. The senior medals will still be done for those in orchestra for all 4 years. The medal will be most likely be given when seniors get their cap and gowns.
3. Symphony Tour and Refund Update (Shireen and Kim): A tour by Symphony to Amsterdam and Berlin was cancelled. The tour company World Projects helped the tour committee work on getting refunds. We will be receiving almost 82% of the funds back. The fund raising was very successful, including 2 grants from the YWCA and the city and a student letter writing campaign. The grant money will go to future tours. Other donations will be given to the general fund. The check/refund has been received. Refunds checks should be sent out to families in the next few weeks.
4. 20/21 School Year (Ann): There are positions open on the executive board next year. Some parents have expressed interest. Some work will be done over the summer. An interim budget will be created. This budget will be presented for approval by vote at the June meeting, so that bills can be paid during the summer.
5. Thoughts, questions: Will school start in July? Probably not, there will be online summer school through SaMo and SMC. LAUSD will start in August, SaMo will likely do so also. For parents who have insurance for the tour, will the insurance pay anything? Yes, if the insurance was cancel for any reason, they will likely pay 75% of the remainder. There are about 325 students in the SaMo orchestra program. There are 7 groups/orchestras. At least half of the

students do a sport. The orchestra is a nice community. How can students prepare for SaMo? Practice solo work, scales, etudes, quarantine may be making practice time more available. No one is turned away from the music program. It is unclear how the orchestras will operate if social distancing is in place next year. Options are being explored. There is a SaMoHi orchestra Facebook page for further info:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/436933803761850/>

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Submitted by Deborah Nadel