

## PYSO Parents' Association Meeting September 18, 2011

Incumbent president Maureen Stokan opened the meeting, circulated sign-in sheets for the attendees, and introduced Executive Director Craig Johnson, Program Director Eve Goodman, and incumbent treasurer Jeanne Boehmer. She also described the functions of the PYSO Parents' Association, which include providing pre-concert meals, fundraising opportunities, scholarship assistance, and a yearbook for the students. Maureen explained, for example, how the organization helped the students raise money to fund last summer's tour of Italy, pointing out the particular success of the painted violin fundraiser. Since the orchestra will not tour this year less effort will be directed to fundraising, but the organization will nonetheless continue thinking of new ways to raise money. Maureen encouraged parents to provide the new president with fundraising ideas throughout the year.

Jeanne presented the treasurer's report and noted that there are substantial funds in the account. If needed, some of these funds can be made available for scholarships. It was also reported that the organization collected over \$1600 at the concerts and will be looking for volunteers to help with the donation buckets again this year. Maureen presented the report in the absence of last season's secretary and discussed topics like fundraising and distributing the souvenir booklet from last summer's tour of Italy.

Officers were elected for the PYSO Parent's 2011-2012 season:

President: Cynthia Brown  
Co Vice-Presidents: Rhonda Miller and Lisa Hilal  
Secretary: Janet Kotcher

Then Craig discussed the following topics with the parents:

- Parents are welcome to stay during rehearsals but should sign-in at the door. At Heinz Hall, parents can either stay in the green room or in the auditorium. A few rehearsals throughout the year will be held at CAPA, and a lounge will be made available for parents at that location.
- Student attendance was discussed with the parents:
  - Absentee forms should be turned in at least a week in advance.
  - There is a no-questions-asked policy for up to five absences/year (two per concert, plus a bonus).

- Although cases will be reviewed individually, students who exceed the allowed number of absences face the possible consequence of not being allowed to play in the concert.
- It was also noted that missing too many rehearsals may affect seating placement, and that members who miss too many rehearsals cannot seat in the principal chairs.
- If a student is caught using their phone during rehearsal it will be confiscated until the end of that rehearsal.
- Students should take belongings of value with them during rehearsal and not leave them in the hallways or backstage. Purses should be on the stage.
- The year's schedule is posted on the website and in the student handbook. The office will make an effort not to change it, but if a change becomes necessary it will be posted on the website in the weekly update by noon on Friday. Should a later change become necessary then that change will be mass emailed.
- The three main concerts will be held at Heinz Hall. These concerts are free but ticketed, enabling the office to track attendance. Tickets can be downloaded from the website.
- It is possible that an additional runout concert(s) will be added, but the office will let members know of any change as soon as possible.
- The office plans to increase the number of chamber groups and to find a regular place for them to rehearse. The meeting time will, most likely, be on Saturday mornings.
- Formal concert attire is described in the handbook.
  - For the ladies: all black; skirt must cover the knees when seated; sleeve must cover the shoulder; shoes must be closed-toe black dress shoes; black stockings; minimal jewelry.
  - For the guys: black suit or tux; white shirt; black shoes and socks.
- There are opportunities to participate in the musical rock opera Chess. No audition is needed.
- The fax (412-392-4820) is currently unreliable so call the office before sending one so someone can be there to receive it.
- Let the office know of events that will cause a large number of orchestra members to miss rehearsal. They may decide to reschedule rehearsal.
- For some sections students are requested to find replacements to cover their absence, but they should let the office know in advance if they are having trouble finding a substitute.

Maureen invited the parents that attended the meeting to help set up the luncheon this was scheduled between the double rehearsal, and she then adjourned the meeting.

Janet Kotcher,  
Secretary