

THE TORONTO CONSORT

Annual General Meeting of the Members

Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2019

Location: Alliance Française Toronto, 24 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2S7

Board and Staff Attendees: Heather Turnbull (President), Michelle Knight, Adam Smith, Anita Nador, Andrea Whitehead, Jason Bernardon, Alison Melville, Paul Jenkins, Frances Campbell (Secretary),

Directors-in-Training: Stephanie Butler, Gavin Winter

Artistic Associates: John Pepper

Members: Ann Atkinson, Oleg Kuzin, Priyanka Sheth

Absent: Harry Deeg (Treasurer), Jennifer Bryant

A quorum being present, the President, Heather Turnbull, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda

- The meeting agenda was adopted as presented. Moved by Oleg Kuzin; seconded by Andrea Whitehead; carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

- The meeting minutes from the AGM of November 22, 2018 were presented and adopted with a minor change.
Moved by John Pepper; seconded by Oleg Kuzin; carried.

3. Report from the President of the Board of Directors, Heather Turnbull

- Heather noted the retirement this year of 3 members of the governance team: John Ison, Treasurer; Ann Posen, Chair of the Nominations committee; and Board member, Tiffany Tobias. On behalf of the Toronto Consort Heather thanked the three for their service, saying that they had set the bar high for their successors.
- She described the Board's process to identify potential future members of the Board with a view to diversifying the team through the Directors-in-Training program.

Of the five Directors-in-Training who had completed the program, two have already joined the Board—Jason Bernardon and Jennifer Bryant; and two further candidates will be joining as of this evening—Stephanie Butler and Gavin Winter. Mikail Sadhu is unable to join the Board at this time owing to work commitments but will continue to contribute to committee work.

- The Board continues work to update the anti-violence and anti-harassment guidelines in the workplace, in keeping with the industry norms.
- Heather complimented the Artistic Associates on their success in “getting back to their roots in Consort management”, saying that she was proud of their work and collaboration with the Board.
- The Operations team (Michelle Knight and Adam Smith) were described as “leaders in the arts community”, and Heather spoke of her commitment to increase their compensation, aligned with their outstanding performance, and in maintaining industry standards for professionals of their calibre. This will be a priority with the governance team, and monitored throughout the year.
- Heather also thanked all the Board members, mentioning the skills and dedication of all involved.

4. Report from the Treasurer

Copies of the Audited Financial Statements were distributed.

Heather complimented the staff and Finance Committee on their efforts in preparing for the audit, and in compiling the documentation for the financial statements’ preparation. She also drew attention to the auditor’s favourable opinion.

As Harry Deeg was unable to attend the meeting, Heather presented the highlights of his report.

- Money from the operating fund was used this year to produce the Frescobaldi CD.
- Deferred revenue included donations to the David Fallis Fund for Cultural Bridging Programming, and Canada Council Digital Strategy Grant.
- Overall revenue had decreased owing to decreased government grants and less touring by the Consort.
- On the other hand, individual donations had increased.
- There were increased expenses, mainly due to the cost of renting Glenn Gould Studio for recording the Frescobaldi CD, and related education expenses. However, this should be considered as an investment, she noted.

Members were invited to ask questions or comment about the financial statements.

- Andrea questioned the expiry date of the 2-year rental lease agreement for the office location. The date was corrected from May 30, 2020 to June 2021.

Andrea Whitehead moved that the Audited Financial Statements of the Toronto Consort for the year ending June 30, 2019 be adopted as presented/amended, seconded by Jason Bernardon, and adopted.

5. Appointment of Auditors

Andrea Whitehead moved that the accounting firm of Jeffrey D. Milgram, Professional Corporation continue as auditor of the Toronto Consort for the year ending June 30, 2020. It was seconded by Oleg Kuzin, and carried.

6. Ratification of Acts of the Board of Directors

Heather proposed that the membership of the Toronto Consort approves and confirms all actions, decisions, and resolutions by the board of Directors since the last Annual General meeting of the Toronto Consort. John Pepper moved that the proposal be accepted, seconded by Jason Bernardon. The motion carried.

7. Report of the Nominating Committee - Jason Bernardon

Heather Turnbull introduced Jason Bernardon as the new chair of the Nominations committee, with the other committee members being herself, Alison Melville and Andrea Whitehead.

Jason reported that he had completed the skills-mapping exercise, identifying the strengths and weaknesses in the current Board with a view to recruiting new members to complement the team.

The committee is looking at ideas to recruit candidates from other arts organizations to foster different perspectives.

Jason introduced the two newest members of the Board of Directors:

- Stephanie Butler - holds a post-doctoral position at Ryerson University, and is an instructor in adult learning
- Gavin Winter - a consultant in strategic planning and venture capital. Gavin is a volunteer usher with the Toronto Consort, and has been developing a strategy for an improved customer experience for the Consort.

8. Confirmation of the Board of Directors

- Michelle Knight moved that the members of the Board of Directors as presented be confirmed; seconded by Anita Nador, and carried.

9. Report from the Artistic Associates

Paul Jenkins reported on the major activities of the Consort during the past year.

- Paul reviewed the 2018/19 concert season, and mentioned some additional performances: the "pop-up" concert in 2018 at the Centre for Social Innovation; the March 2019 performance of the *Italian Queen of France* program in Oakville; and the return to the Centre for Social Innovation for the UnGala.
- In addition to Paul and Alison Melville participating as ex-officio members of the Board of Directors, the Artistic Associates have been holding monthly meetings to plan future concerts and discuss what they have learned from past performances. They also explore new funding sources, educational performances and touring opportunities.

Alison Melville reported on the Consort's educational concerts and recording.

- This was the Consort's first year in having to manage their educational events.

They are now looking at revising one of the established programs, "Shakespeare's Songbook"; and replacing the older "Marco Polo" program with "Illuminations". The latter is a multi-media program featuring medieval and classical music from Persia, and western Medieval music.

A trial performance of the Illuminations school concert went well. Corey Knight and Esteban La Rotta were great at talking to the audience and engaging them. The Consort hopes to repeat this program both for educational events and touring.

- The Consort's first recording in 2 years, "Frescobaldi and the Glories of Rome", was recorded in 3 days at CBC's Glenn Gould Studio. While the rental of the studio was an additional expense, it was worth it as there were no distractions or external noise to contend with, resulting in fewer takes; and it included the services of CBC recording engineer, Ron Searles.

Alison continued to work with Ron to edit the recording and work on other aspects of producing the CD.

The CDs have now been pressed and will be available at the Christmas Concert in December. This will be the first time a Consort CD can also be downloaded or streamed.

There are an additional 5 tracks that were recorded but not included on the CD. These will be available for download to purchasers of the CD.

Alison expressed her thanks to donors and, in particular, to patron Ann Atkinson for making the recording of the CD possible.

10. Report from the Managing Director, Michelle Knight

Michelle introduced her report saying that she was "delighted and inspired" to be working with the Artistic Associates. Along with Adam, her role is to support the AAs, and she described it as a "true partnership."

- In keeping with the Canada Council Multi-year grant proposal, they have been expanding their planning cycle out to 4 years. This longer time is providing more opportunity for developing concert ideas and raising funds.
- The Early Music Collaboration Lab is now in its third year, and they are also piloting a Seniors Ambassador training program to attract new volunteers.
- Volunteers have received training in the Ontario Disabilities Act; and at concerts are using 2-way radios and wearing new vests to identify them as volunteers.
- The Canada Council Digital Strategy grant has been used to audit the Consort's current digital capabilities, and plans to improve the use of digital strategies are in development. As an example of digital marketing already in use, Michelle mentioned the short videos created for Facebook and Instagram.
- Michelle expressed her thanks to all the volunteers and donors for their participation. She had special thanks for Adam's Smith contribution and teamwork.

11. Question and Answer Period

Questions were invited from the members. There were no specific questions.

Alison Melville wanted to add thanks to Earl Rosen and Dinah Hoyle of Marquis records for their support, and acknowledged how difficult it is for small record companies such as theirs to survive. She also mentioned that the official release date for the Frescobaldi CD would be in April 2020, noting that the long lead-time was required because this would be a global release.

Adam added that Toronto Consort material was already streaming on Spotify.

Adjournment of the Annual General Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm

Moved by Frances Campbell; seconded by Oleg Kuzin; and carried.

Minutes submitted by Frances Campbell, Secretary