

**The San Diego Symphony Orchestra Association
Annual Members Meeting
October 29, 2020**

I. Call to Order

Chair Dave Snyder called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm via Zoom webinar. He welcomed the Members and Board members present and thanked them for attending. He noted that Elizabeth Larsen had been appointed by the Board of Directors to serve as Inspector of Elections for the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

III. Board Elections

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the election of the following slate of nominees for election as directors for terms expiring at the Annual Meeting of 2023 or until their successors are duly elected was approved as follows: David Bialis, Phyllis Epstein, Sam Ersan, Harold “Hal” Fuson, Dr. Warren Kessler, Linda Platt, Christopher “Kit” Sickels, and Mitch Woodbury.

IV. State of the Symphony Presentation

Mr. Snyder stated that these are unprecedented times for The San Diego Symphony Orchestra Association, but a bright spot is the significant turnout for today’s Annual Members’ Meeting, and he shared his appreciation for the participation. Mr. Snyder recognized the commitment from the Association’s donors, Board, Management, Staff, and Orchestra for their perseverance. Mr. Snyder thanked the Board COVID Task Force for their time and expertise, in particular David Bialis, Kathleen Davis, Hal Fuson, Warren Kessler, and Mitch Woodbury, as well as Counsel Rich Paul, and Scott Williams. Mr. Snyder asked that members make their annual gifts early and to make additional gifts to the Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Snyder then introduced Christopher Smith, Principal Trumpet, who has recorded a number of projects in his building garage during the pandemic for sharing with the community. He has over 20 years’ experience with orchestral and small ensembles both in the United States and abroad, as well as eight years in the United States Marine Band, America’s oldest, continuously active professional music organization.

Mr. Smith presented a recording of a short musical piece.

Mr. Snyder thanked Mr. Smith for his performance and then introduced San Diego Symphony CEO, Martha Gilmer. Mr. Snyder noted how fortunate the Association is with the accomplishments that Ms. Gilmer’s leadership has brought to the organization, and shared that

Ms. Gilmer and Mr. Smith will have an exchange together, after which Ms. Gilmer will share a report on the status of the organization.

Ms. Gilmer and Mr. Smith had a lively discussion about the beginning of the 2019-2020 season with Rafael Payare, making music and connecting with our audience during the pandemic, and what it means to support music in this time.

Ms. Gilmer recounted the accomplishments of the past year and gave a detailed overview of highlights from the 2019-2020 year as we responded to the disruption brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Gilmer shared how the organization moved from live in-person performances with a successful start to Music Director Rafael Payare's inaugural season in the Fall to building a digital music presence throughout the pandemic.

Mr. Snyder then introduced Board Treasurer Kathleen Davis, who gave a brief pre-recorded financial report.

Ms. Gilmer continued her report sharing the principles and priorities that guided the organization through the pandemic as well as the steps taken to ensure the health and stability of the Symphony for years to come. Ms. Gilmer reported that a Stabilization Fund had been created, that a PPP Loan had been secured, and that steps had been undertaken to reduce expenses. Ms. Gilmer stated that construction on The ShellSM continues.

Ms. Gilmer expressed gratitude for the Board, in particular Chair Dave Snyder for his calm and focused leadership. Ms. Gilmer thanked Dottie Laub and Elizabeth Oliver for their commitment to our orchestra as they step down from the Board. Ms. Gilmer extended her thanks also to the San Diego Symphony Foundation Board, to the orchestra, the administrative staff, and to all our patrons, subscribers, and ticket buyers.

Ms. Gilmer introduced a video of The ShellSM which showcased how it will be a destination for diverse audiences through a wide range of programming and a welcoming environment.

Ms. Gilmer shared that she is often asked by people how they can help. She relayed that contributions can be made the Stabilization Fund or to The ShellSM. Ms. Gilmer also asked members to be our ambassador by telling others our story or visiting Symphony Stream to listen to our library of performances.

Ms. Gilmer then announced that Music Director Rafael Payare has extended his contract with the San Diego Symphony through the 2025-2026 season. She shared that this contract extension ensures the connection between Rafael and the musicians continues, assuring the strong and vital future of the San Diego Symphony.

Mr. Snyder then rejoined Ms. Gilmer and introduced Rafael Payare and Chris Smith for a group discussion and to answer questions from members.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Una Davis, Secretary

(Recorded by Elizabeth Larsen, Executive Assistant to the CEO and Board)