

# NCBCDA General Session Meeting

February 2nd, 2019 9:30-11:30

## 1. Welcome/Call to order - 9:30 AM

Casson calls the meeting to order. We have many more people than we have had in the past. Wow! There is barely enough room for everyone. Thank you for being here. Trying to cut down on paper by reducing the number of copies. Copies of all items were emailed out last night and this morning.

## 2. Approval of summer meeting minutes, emailed February 1. - 9:31 AM

The internet stopped working, but we sent out the summer minutes last night. We made some copies for this morning. Taking a moment for the membership to peruse the minutes before voting to approve. Casson talks about how we need to be quick because we have directors playing in the Jazz Choir Band. Motion to approve minutes by Chrissy Sleight, seconded by Michael Costa.

Minutes approved 9:33 AM.

## 3. Conductor/director report will be delivered as they can be pulled away.

**9:52 - Gaw Vang Williams' report.** This is her first ever honor choir! Amazing! She thinks it has been very organized, communication and emails was great. She is wondering about how much work and time the directors have to help their students prepare for this weekend? Did they use recordings? She doesn't know what directors do to prepare. Alissa said some directors have asked for recordings of each student 10 days before the first rehearsal so the director could start hearing voices for blend. Gaw says she would have liked to request recordings earlier, but she was worried about infringing on the teachers' curriculum and time. She wants to have the input from directors about how much time they would be able to spend preparing. One director says: earlier would be better. If we could know about recording assignments before Christmas break. It would be great! Do you guys welcome the idea of recording assignments? Many members nodded their heads. One member said she already gives recording assignments to her jazz choir. She enjoyed the recording assignments from Gaw. It helped get the kids productive, scared them into working on it. Plus the kids understand that this is an extra commitment. Taylor Sabado asked if Gaw thinks the kids came prepared. Gaw says she thinks they are as prepared as they could be. She says she thinks they could have come more prepared if the recording assignments were given earlier. Alissa adds - after the jazz concert, we need help striking the jazz choir sound system. Wrapping cables, all that type of stuff. There are 20 kids who still need black folders. Tim Decker says he has plenty of black folders at his school.

**10:20 AM - Dr. Chris Peterson.** He loves the kids. He likes the schedule. It would be best to have the sectionals first. This year they had an all-together rehearsal first. He thinks they were a little underprepared. He thinks it would help if the practice tracks were made with someone

actually singing, not just the MIDI part tracks. Sectionals first and the different part tracks would make all the difference. He says thank you and he's had so much fun.

**10:29 AM - Dr. Emily Moss's report.** She says it's great and she is having a blast. She was unaware that the kids were going to be sight-reading. She found out ten minutes before they started. It changes her whole mindset with what she is going to do. If that's the way we will be continuing the practice, we should be sure to let the conductor know. Her two cents is that even if the kids have just the first part to prepare, they at least can sort of prepare before their chair placements. Just a thought for getting the music out in advance. Schedule comments: she thinks the amount of rehearsal time is good. She was almost worried that there would be too much time, but then she found out they are sight reading, so the amount of time was good. She has really enjoyed diving into the music at a different level, and she thinks the kids have gotten a lot out of it. If you have really hard music, sometimes the opportunities are fewer for this kind of discussion. She really appreciated the big break in the middle of the day on Friday for viewing the concerts. They need the rest. It's brutal when there is an 8-hour rehearsal day with only an hour lunch break. The break made the rehearsal time more productive. There were a couple of times when due to logistics of moving things around that they lost some time. She does not feel too frustrated about it. There was a snafu with a room being unavailable. She ended up having a bit less rehearsal time than what was scheduled and it has still been fine. She likes having the time for extended warmups and being able to talk about music deeply.

**11:02 - Report from Steve Roach.** He says it's been great. He thinks the schedule was really really good. He says the 2.5 hour block could have been just 2 hours for the chops of the brass players. Band manager has been above average, kids are great. Thumbs up all around.

#### 4. Past President Report - Dean Nordby

##### Concert Band music for sale

9:33 AM - Casson delivers Dean's report in his absence. The storm has kept him at home; he drove back for a school event with the plan to come back. Turns out he can not come back due to severe weather. He got up to come back, but his wife told him he is crazy and he should not come back. Rehearsal has been great; Dr. Moss speaks TO the students instead of AT them. The students are responding wonderfully. Great choice! Special thanks to Kevin Stewart for helping so much in Dean's absence. Big thank you to the percussion masters for all their help. Thank you to Casson and other board members. Thank you to Andy Collinworth for hosting. He has seen many changes : the adding of the Jazz ensembles, changing the bylaws, etc. This courage to embrace change is what makes NCBCDA unique. He loves it. Dean has been here off and on for 8 years and has always loved being involved. He loves the organization. Applause for his letter. It was touching.

#### 5. President's Report - Casson Scowcroft - 10:04 AM

**Retirees, new members, student teachers, open positions** - Siobahn Markee, new band director at Quincy High and elementary school. Welcome to Siobahn! Matthew Lane from Union Mine High School in the town of El Dorado. Opening positions? Santa Rosa has around

6 open positions. Erik Ohlson: Santa Rosa got a million dollar grant for 4th to 6th graders to have instruments. They have 3 new elementary positions opening and a ton of retirees. The main middle school job in Crescent City is opening (Daniel Sedgwick announced this). A middle school job is opening in Eureka. Plus an elementary school position in Eureka and in Chico. Who is retiring? Jim Humphreys. Thunderous applause for him for a very long time. Mark Wardlaw will be retiring. He is not present because he is conducting the Marin County Honor Band. Mark has been teaching in Santa Rosa since 1990. Roughly a thirty year career. He has been doing Santa Rosa Middle School for the last few years. Mike Milbrath will be retiring. He is not present. Mark Mahor is retiring from Cook. He has been a fantastic leader in a tough area of Santa Rosa to teach. Mark will be asking all alumni to march in the Santa Rosa rose parade with them.

**Change in university rotation** - This year we would normally be in Humboldt, but there are renovations happening. We will be back in HSU for 2020. Paul Cummings is in attendance, he says thank you for juggling the schedule. He says fingers crossed, they should be finished on time. They are already scrambling to accommodate the extra ensembles.

**Helping out during and after concert** - as always, we need a ton of people to help during the switchovers between the ensembles. The big deal is after the concert, please help move percussion from Weill Hall back to GMC Band rooms. David Lawrence asks for clarification on what the call times are and what the expectations are for the students, and are the students going to watch the other concerts. The choir will meet in Schroeder in between the concerts, Emily will do a talk through and they will march over. Instruments will be left in the green room of Weill hall, bands will march over and get the instruments.

Siobahn Markee asks about tickets: There are comp tickets for the directors. Families have to pay \$8 for the concert and the parking fee. It's the first time we have been charged this much, although we did pay for parking two years ago.

**Change to bylaws** (sent out Feb. 1) - The bylaws have been changed to adjust the duties of the officers. Changes are highlighted in blue. Last year we voted to try out the jazz choir and jazz band as a "pilot". It is the position of the board that it was a huge success. The ensembles sound great and the kids are enjoying it. We need the approval of the general body to officially add the Jazz Choir and Jazz Band into the rotation. Motion to add the Jazz Band and Jazz Choir permanently by Nancy Hill. Seconded by Matt Bringedahl. Approved at 10:18 AM.

Now that the Jazz Ensembles have been approval, we can address the adjustments to the roles of the board members. One big change to past president: We want to eliminate the position of CBDA rep as a standalone responsibility and incorporate that into the Past President position. Casson did this responsibility this year because Bobby could not do it. Casson enjoyed it and is happy to add these to his duties as Past President next year. Some verbage has been changed to reflect the online audition process for the President Elect. Pause this report for Chris Peterson's report at 10:20 AM.

Resumes at 10:22 - A lot of these changes are formalizing into our bylaws things that are just happening anyway. Secretary/treasurer has been handling the website for the past couple of years anyway. The previous bylaws were during the time of mailing things, receiving checks, all that. The updates are for the current era. Historian will now coordinate scholarships to music

camps. This has already been happening since the Historian has been contacting camps about being in the program anyway. Host site coordinator is being abolished. We are solidifying that there will be two choral reps. We are adding that one of the choral reps will be the jazz coordinator and one will be concert choir. This will be discussed and based on who has the most expertise in jazz. We would like to add the position of Jazz Band representative. Jazz Band Rep will be coordinating everything for jazz band, attend all meetings and deliver a report, conductor's travel taken care of, doing the auditions, getting the repertoire, and will be the liason for the conductor. 2 year position. (the 2-year term needs to be added to the bylaws. Ryan adds it at 10:26 AM). Motion to approve by Chrissy Garcia. Seconded Natalie Fleterick. Motion passes at 10:27 AM.

## 6. Vice President's Report - Ryan Heimlich

9:41 AM - **Online auditions** went very well until the website crashed on the deadline. Jeez. Ryan had to contact each director to get the MP3's, it just took some extra time but it was fine. There were 177 submissions. Last year it was 183, we'll call it holding steady. The year before we went online it was in the high 130's. 25 jazz band auditions. Only 5 of them were in common with the concert band. All total, almost 200 people auditioned for norcal. High numbers! 50 schools sent submissions, a couple new schools sent auditions but did not make it in. Online judging happened again; this year we made sure that the two judges for each section could call and email each other. Thank you to everyone who judged and who judged live auditions.

Paul Varoff asks: are you sold with the online submission system? Is there another one we can look into? All Northern and Cap Section use a certain site for submitting auditions. Ryan says I don't think we are completely set. Yes, we are open to looking into new systems for submission. Varoff says he had some problems with our current system. Bobby suggests for people who want to switch to something else, send a paragraph about it to Ryan and we can talk about it at the summer session.

Tom Slabough: 3 different submission processes for his school for the three different honor bands. He would like it to be easier to apply to multiple honor bands. Bobby says the people at Cap Section are very protective of their site and system; they will not give it up. It's also very pricey and our current one is almost free.

Paul Varoff says: Can we consider the site reading? It seemed odd this year. He's heard a few complaints from different directors. He suggests taking a first part and picking excerpts for the site reading.

Erik Ohlson: How did the live auditions go? Ryan says he thinks it went okay. Erik suggests an alternative process: Using phones to submit auditions, potentially shortening or doing away with live auditions. Kids could send in a video, one take, of them playing through all the scales from memory and the excerpts, and that counts as the live audition so they can get placed before-hand. Bobby says we like the live audition because it has educational value. These kids are going to be auditioning for college and it is very helpful for us to give them this experience. It's part of the process.

Tom Slabaugh: He understands the philosophy of the live audition. The kids bombed the percussion live audition. They were very pressed for time to assigned parts, and it was hard to go through the scale auditions for each person AND assign the parts. Slabough thinks the kids did not get much out of the audition process and would have gotten more out of the time if they could have used it to assign parts and secure equipment. The board should consider having a different process for the percussionists. Last year we voted to make the percussionists do the same thing as the rest of the band.

Chrissy Sleigh asks what is the point of including the sight-reading in the live audition.

Nancy Hill: We are already having issues with our tech, we should not add more tech. Noted. She is all for live auditions. Sean Millard: for Soco Honor Band, which is director recommended, they assign percussion parts ahead of time. Maybe we should consider this; there is a bit of "massaging" (pause for director report from Gaw Vang Williams)

10 AM - resume this report and discussion (we paused for Gaw Vang Williams' report). Jeff Edom says he would be very concerned with taking out the live audition. People do much different things in a live audition than in a recording.

Tom Douglass says he likes that the sight reading is not an excerpt, because it eliminates the possibility of someone already knowing the piece.

Michael Costa says the only valuable part of the live audition is the sight reading. He puts more stress on that in his mind because the concert band needs to do so much sight reading. We should think about making the sight reading a more important part, and maybe having the percussionists ONLY sight read as part of their audition.

Tom Slabaugh Proposes: The percussion auditions should take no more than 25% of the allotted time. The audition will be mainly focused on sight-reading. The remaining 75% of the time is for

Motion seconded by Michael Costa. Motion passes at 10:03 AM.

Jim Humphreys moves to approve the report, Jeff Edom seconds. Approved at 10:04 AM.

## 7. Secretary Treasurer's Report - Erica Dori

Budget report - Report has several estimates on it because expenses for the weekend have not yet been finalized. Erica will update the budget report, send it out to the membership, and post it on the website. The board is happy to report that at this point, it looks like the practice of having the Jazz Ensembles is a financially sustainable process.

Erica brings up some of the issues with PayPal: At times, there is a random name and she does not know which school is associated with that payment. Plus, it ends up costing NCBCDA a few hundred dollars from the percentage that PayPal collects. Asks the membership: Is it worth it to keep Paypal? Many directors say yes please, keep Paypal.

Sean Millard suggests Venmo. It allows for comments. Nancy Hill suggests working into our system to make it so that the buyer pays for the PayPal fee. Taylor Sabado says that NCBA has the buyer send their receipt after they pay with Paypal so that we know. Jeff Edom says for the dollars that they charge at PayPal: He would be happy the extra few dollars.

Motion to approve the Secretary Report by Jim Humphreys, seconded by Kevin Stewart.  
Approved at 10:39.

## 8. Choral Reps Report- Alissa Aune and Ady Jimenez

9:37 - Done early because Alissa has to go to Jazz Choir rehearsal. Thanks to everyone for helping with sectionals and helping sick kids. Thank you to Andy Delmonte for turning pages for Chris Alexander. Thank you to Dana for helping out with Choir. 2020 director will be Don Kendrick at Humboldt, recently retired from sac state. Robert Heistadd from Fullerton will be 2021 at Chico State. Jenny Bent would love to do this; she'd like to do it when it's at SSU, which would be 2022. Alissa recommends that we nominate her for that year.

**Jazz Choir:** we had a low number of auditions but everyone met the standard. We are looking to advertise more, Gaw will give a list of all the vocal jazz directors she knows so we can get more people involved in Jazz Choir auditions. Alissa anticipates that a lot of students are going to want to start vocal jazz after this. Thank you to Ady Jimenez. Alissa loves being a part of this board. Motion to approve the choral rep report by Nancy Hill, second by Gail Bowers.  
Approved 9:41 AM.

## 9. CBDA Rep Report - Casson Scowcroft

10:39 AM - Casson went to the meeting in December. Conference is in Fresno again, ACDA will not be there this year, but they are planning to recombine next year. The board is entertaining the idea of raising the limit of AllState submissions. Diamond Bar in San Diego wants to be able to submit 50 kids to AllState. Casson was against this because it will take away representation from a huge region of California. Jeff Edom asks what is the chance of re-introducing representation. Bobby says zero chance, CBDA is not interested at all in representation. Jeff Edom says he is tired of his chances of getting in being so low, and sending in money every single year and never getting anyone in. Bobby suggests that more of us should show up to the general session at CBDA and make a stink about representation. Nancy Hill brings up the idea of a boycott from CBDA because money talks. She also talks about the ACDA model: they have more representation rules. Bobby and Casson respond by saying the Fresno contingency has no interest in representation or NorCal. Bobby adds that CBDA is in Fresno to stay. San Jose got too expensive. They were charging huge vendor fees, the food was expensive. There should be some hotels coming up to make our stay in Fresno easier. There is a current 3-year contract and they are looking to keep it up permanently.

## 10. Old Business

10:46 AM -Election of Board Officers

Treasurer: Thank you Erica!

Historian: Thank you Kris!

President Elect: Thank you Ryan!

Treasurer- Nominations! Bobby Rogers nominated by Sean Millard. Cassie Moulton-Rizzo nominated by Kevin Stewart. Kevin Stewart nominated by Casson Scowcroft.

Some words about the nominations: Bobby would rather do the jazz band thing. He has been part of the board for a long time, he knows the organization well. Cassie is at Arcata, she could utilize her school site. She has been treasurer for a CMEA Branch. Kevin Stewart is great, has a full-time assistant, very organized since he runs the band festivals. Voting commences:

Bobby Rogers - 1 vote (Casson only)

Cassie Moulton- 23 votes

Kevin Stewart - 13 votes.

Cassie Moulton will be the next Secretary/Treasurer!! Voted at 10:53 AM

Historian Nominations! Jeff Edoms nominates Kris Harper. No other nominations. Kris Harper is the Historian! 10:57 AM

President Elect Nominations: Daniel Sedgwick is nominated by Nancy Hill. Bobby Rogers nominated by Casson Scowcroft.

Daniel Sedgwick - 22 votes

Bobby Rogers - 12 votes

Daniel Sedgwick is the new President Elect!!! Voted at 11:01 AM

Jazz Rep Nominations: Bobby Rogers nominated by Nancy Hill. Matt Bringedahl nominated by Gail Bowers.

Matt Bringedahl - 13 votes

Bobby Rogers - many votes

Bobby Rogers will be the Jazz Rep!!! Voted at 11:07 AM.

## 11. New Business

Honor Jazz Ensembles - approval after trial year. Already approved earlier in the meeting.

All hands on deck for changing stage between Concert Choir and Concert Band

## 12 Election of Future Conductors

Band 2021 -

Choir 2021 - already confirmed Istad.

Choir 2022 nominations: Jenny Bent from SSU, Sharon Paul from University of Oregon. Josh Palkki from Calstate Long Beach. Buddy James from Calstate East Bay.

Voted for Jenny Bent 2022 at 11:07 AM. Voting for the alternates: 4 for Sharon Paul, 7 for Palkki, Buddy James got 13 votes. Alternates are, in order: 1.) Buddy James, 2.) Josh Palkki, 3.) Sharon Paul

Jazz Choir Nominations for 2020 and 2021:

Kerry Marsh, UNC - 11 votes

David Scott, Berklee - 1

Christine Guter, CSULB - 17 votes

2020: Christine Guter, alternate Kerry Marsh

2021: Kerry Marsh, potential alternate Christine Guter.

Concert Band Nominations for 2022: We have contracted Julie Giroux, she will be composing a piece for us and she will conduct. 2021 nominations are Tracis Cross, Rodney Cross, Emily Threinin. We have Patrick Reynolds for 2020.

Jazz Band for 2020:

Voting for two people for elimination voting:

Mike G - 3

Dan Aldag, HSU - 7

Dave E. , arts high school in Berkeley. - 16

Aaron Linktin from San Jose State - 23

Patrick Langham, UOP - 9

John Diversa, Miami University - 4

Top 3:

Aaron Lington - 17

Dave Eshelman - 15

Patrick Langham - 2

2020 will be Aaron Lington, 2021 will be Dave Eshelman (if they are available)

### **Final Business: 11:24 AM**

David Hill brings up that we should send someone from NCBCDA Board to the memorial service for Dr. Eric Hammer. Jesse Steele says he would like to see the Jazz Band auditions open up to more than 2 submissions per school. Since we did not get enough kids, maybe increase it by 1. Casson responds that we will indeed raise the number.

David Lawrence says that his kids were intimidated by the Jazz auditions. Give them more tools and whatnot. We should do more to get more kids from more schools. Paul Varoff asks for call time clarification for kids today. It has not been announced. It's going to come from the

Jazz Directors, we don't know. For Concert Band and Concert Choir, they have assigned seats in the upper levels. They should be there by the start of the concert. Where will the cases go? All things will be brought into the green room. Where do we get tickets? Casson will be outside of the lobby handing out the comp tickets.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.