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## **ESFRS Board Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2020 via ZOOM**

In attendance: Kathleen Schoen, (Kwok Hung) Corky Ng, Kelly Komm, Maggie Ganes, Susanna So

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm

Items for discussion and formal motion:

- Income and Expense Estimates:
  - A look at the estimates for income and expense sent out prior by Kathleen. A question from Susanna regarding especially low enrolment numbers. Enrolment is low by 50%; it is speculated the low numbers are due to possible job loss due to pandemic, or general caution by people.
  
- Maggie is having some trouble with her mic; brief attempt to repair.
  - Chat function:
    - 18:28:30 From Kathleen Schoen: chat?
    - 18:28:39 From Maggie Ganes: I am not muted, I am not sure what is wrong
    - 18:28:46 From Maggie Ganes: wrong\*
    - 18:30:25 From Maggie Ganes: No, I see a message saying the microphone is not working
    - 18:30:29 From Maggie Ganes: I will just use chat
    - 18:31:48 From Maggie Ganes: I will just use chat. Sorry
  
- Continuation of Online lessons & Resumption of Group Lessons in the Fall:
  - Online lessons likely continuing into the fall since the instruments used are aerophone. We will be doing summer institute online and will see how that goes; many ideas may be garnered to assist with online learning come the fall. Being able to “bring in” amazing teachers from all over the world for our ~~institute~~ workshop is also a huge benefit. The provincial government will be giving direction to schools for the fall on August 1, 2020, and that will assist in decisions made. Summer Institute is now WOW in many ways!

- Online recital last week went very well, and we may incorporate that permanently into our live recitals, to give an international viewing opportunity to our families.
  - With resuming in-person lessons, safety for the instructor is also a concern, as they are remaining in a room/home with people visiting/playing/breathing. Their liability is also in question, for if a student gets sick after their visit/a student is sick and comes to lesson, etc. On the flip side, teacher training and regular lessons are challenging online due to the lack of properly hearing the tone, etc of the instrument.
- Big Name Teachers:
- Kathleen brought up the idea of using online groups to our advantage. There is a potential of bringing in well-known international teachers since the cost would be significantly less without having to transport and house them. Kelly asked if the board could look at funding being diverted from group lesson building rental rates, or other areas that are null during the pandemic. Kathleen needs to check with the rental facility for lessons to determine whether they are just holding our spot, or if a deposit over the months is required, etc.
  - From Chat function:
    - 18:58:22 From Kelly: Sorry, my dog is barking so I don't want to unmute, but should we be planning an extra board meeting in the summer to make a motion for any of these items?
    - 19:04:36 From Maggie Ganes: I agree, it needs to be in August
  - Discussion of when would be best to add an additional board meeting in the summer to address various concerns regarding enrolment/extra teachers/fund diversion. It is determined that after the August 1st announcement from the provincial government, but before the Online Summer Workshop would be ideal.

**Motion:** Add meeting on August 6, 2020 at 6pm for further discussion of enrolment/rent status/international teacher possibility/other tabled topics. Motion moved by Kelly, Susanna seconds.

Further items discussed:

- Aid Opportunity:
  - Kathleen brought up the possibility of using surplus funds to aid families/teachers within the ESFRS who have been drastically affected by the pandemic. No one has come forward as of yet, so we will keep it in mind as a potential.

- Succession:
  - Kathleen very quickly touched on the topic of succession for ESFRS, as there is currently no one in place to properly run the society in her absence. Making ESFRS files shareable was discussed as a first step. The topic requires more discussion.
  
- BIPOC Awareness:
  - Kathleen expressed curiosity at whether the ESFRS should be reacting similarly to other organizations by sending out a statement, etc regarding BIPOC. While our society is wonderfully diverse, there is always room for improvement and education. She shared the Suzuki Association of Ontario's statement, and the variety of reactions to it. Concern was expressed at what a public statement may miss including, and the assumptions that could be made and misinterpreted, etc. After briefly discussing, it was suggested that ESFRS begin incorporating more diverse music selections as an immediate solution. The board felt inclusive actions would be more effective presently.
  - From Chat function:
    - 19:33:31 From Maggie Ganes: Yes, I agree Kathleen

Farewells and meeting called to adjourn at 7:43pm.

- From Chat function:
  - 19:42:04 From Maggie Ganes: It was great to have it!