



**FRIENDS
OF THE SPCO**

Great Orchestras Need Great Friends

**2017–2018
Annual Report
from Officers and Committee
Chairs**

Mission Statement

The Friends of the SPCO is a nonprofit organization committed to the support of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra through music education, community awareness, audience development and financial support.

Board of Directors Position Description

The Friends of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra is an independent volunteer organization whose purpose is to support and promote the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. It was organized from the Women's Philharmonic Association in 1977 and was incorporated in 1984.

The Board of Directors of the Friends is a working board with significant responsibilities. Board members accomplish the mission and goals of the Friends through assignments on working committees as well as serving on the full Board. The committees function continuously through individual assignments, telephone and email communications and additional small group meetings. The chairperson of each committee writes a report containing pertinent information about the event which becomes part of the whole committee report at the Annual Meeting.

Each Board member is important to the accomplishment of the Friends mission and goals. Each member serves a two-year term with a maximum of six consecutive years. Board members need to be able to devote effort and commitment to their positions on the Board, including paying their yearly dues by early September, regular attendance at Board meetings and serving on at least one committee. The areas to choose among include: Education, Membership, Special Events, Public Relations, Website and Youth Chamber Music Competition. Board members are encouraged to purchase a season ticket package to the SPCO concerts and to share their Fanfare and concert experiences with friends, as well as other events sponsored by The Friends.

The Friends website: www.friendsofthespco.org

The Competition website: www.spco-ycmc.org

Friends of the SPCO 2017-2018 Board of Directors

Betty Andrews - Mailing, Co-Corresponding Secretary
Donna Ahrens - Co-President
Ginger Bailey - Co-Recording Secretary
Jo Bailey - Education
Lynne Beck - Co-President
Kay Bendel - Assistant Treasurer
Inez Bergquist - Education
Carole Boyum
Sue Danielson Bretheim
Lynne Bulger
Annette Conklin - Youth Chamber Music Competition
Mary Cunningham
Cass Dalglish
Mary Frederick
Joan Gacki - Public Relations, Website
Karen Golden
Mary Indritz - Co-Recording Secretary
Carolynn Johnson
Roberta Kagin
Nancy Kapps
Karina Karlen
Betty Kok
Karen Larsen
Patti Limbacher
Judy McCleery - Education
Andrea McCue - Bylaws
Mary McDiarmid - Co-Chair Special Events
Sue Metzger
Barbara Osadcky - Treasurer
Mary Patton - Co-Chair Daniel Freeman Classes, Co-Corresponding Secretary
Susan Pugh
Betty Reichert - Co-Chair Special Events, Government Issues Roxanne Sands
Katie Scarfone - Membership, Website
Inge Schwochau - Historian
Joy Sorich
Sherry Spence
Voni Swenson
Linda van Dooijeweert

Non-Board Committee Chairs 2017–2018

Ellen Lillemoen - Co-Chair, Daniel Freeman Classes
Penny Chally and Cj Suchta, Co-Chairs, Membership
Katie Berg - Director of Development, SPCO Staff Contact

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the SPCO 2017–2018
June 5, 2018
Mendakota Country Club

Attendees: Donna Ahrens, Betty Andrews, Jo Bailey, Lynne Beck, Kay Bendel, Rick Bendel, Inez Bergquist, Carole Boyum, Donna Bruhl, Martin Bruhl, Elizabeth Buschor, Cecil Chally, Penny Chally, Annette Conklin, Mary Cunningham, John Donnelly, Barbara Fritz, Joan Gacki, Inez Gantz, Karen Golden, Molly Henke, JoAnne Hill, Jean Humphries, Mary Indritz, Carolynn Johnson, Roberta Kagin, Janet Kampf, Eric King, Debbie Koop, Gail LaFave, Ellen Lillemoen, Corinne McCarthy, Andrea McCue, Sue Metzger, Ann Miller, Patricia O’Gorman, Mary Orr, Barbara Osadcky, Susan Pugh, Betty Reichert, Inge Schwochau, Joy Sorich, Voni Swenson, Lola May Thompson, Susan Travis, Linda van Dooijeweert, Dona Woolfrey

Lynne Beck called the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the SPCO to order and welcomed all attending this luncheon. The minutes of the June 7, 2017, Annual Meeting were approved as printed. These 2018 Annual Meeting minutes will have “readers” read and correct them before presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting, in keeping with the concept established at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Treasurer’s Report

Barb Osadcky presented the report. The total assets as of May 31, 2018, are \$35,255. The Friends will be able to give a \$22,000 gift to the SPCO due to the success of our events. Barb thanked Kay Bendel for her assistance and the committees for the great job they did with special events.

Co-Presidents’ Thank-You’s

Lynne Beck and Donna Ahrens thanked the Mendakota Country Club and the Annual Meeting Committee for the wonderful event today. They also thanked the 2017-18 Committee and Event Chairs for their hard work and success over this year. Donna remarked that it is a pleasure to work with such active, intelligent, and committed volunteers in the Friends.

Remembrance of Karen Donnelly

Andrea McCue introduced Karen’s husband John and daughter Anne, who attended today and presented a remembrance of Karen. Andrea started the Conversation with Books with Karen, and the Donnellys hosted a wine tasting, a holiday auction, and parties at their home over their many years as Friends. Karen put the “fun” in fundraising and was the detail person who brought joy to her work and did so effortlessly. We shall miss her.

Donna Ahrens invited everyone to take a seashell in Karen’s memory. We have received very generous donations in Karen’s memory and they will go to support our work.

Announcement of the Friend par Excellence Awards

Betty Andrews and Andrea McCue each received the Friend par Excellence Award. Betty has done both large and small things for the Friends over her years as a member, bringing

refreshments for the Freeman lectures and Youth Competition, hosting Board meetings, “showing up” to Friends events, and encouraging leaders and volunteers with her words and actions. Andrea has been a dedicated Friend for many years, is willing to do everything, has chaired the Bylaws Committee, decorates for events, hosts musicians, and helped start Conversation with Books. She is always here, always volunteering.

Recognition of SPCO's Support

Donna Ahrens recognized Katie Berg, the SPCO’s director of development, and Jon Limbacher, SPCO managing director and president, for their dedication to the SPCO and their extraordinary support of the Friends through their exceptional service, time, and enthusiasm. Donna presented them with a print of “The Musicians” which was donated by former SPCO concertmaster Romuald Tecco 20 years ago for a Friends gala auction. The print was purchased by longtime Friends member Louise King and Louise’s daughter returned it to the Friends upon Louise’s death a few years ago. It seemed very fitting to present it to the SPCO as it continues to expand its mission to work with kids and the community to make its music accessible.

Vote on Changes to The Friends’ Bylaws

Lynne Beck thanked Andrea McCue and her committee for preparing the bylaws changes presented today. The motion to approve the bylaws changes in full was seconded and passed. The motion to accept the bylaws changes as distributed today was seconded and passed. Nominations and Vote on the Slate of Officers, Committee Chairs, and Board Members Penny Chally thanked the committee and presented the slate as distributed and Lynne Beck asked for any nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed and Lynne asked to have the slate approved as printed – the motion was made, seconded, and passed. New Board members were then welcomed and presented with a rose. Retiring Board members Betty Andrews, Andrea McCue, and Susan Pugh were given thanks and farewell, along with a rose.

Thoughts on the SPCO

Jon Limbacher, Managing Director and President of the SPCO, gave an update on the SPCO and said speaking at the Friends’ luncheon is his favorite thing he has to do. Jon thanked Lynne Beck and Donna Ahrens for their incredible leadership, as they are great assets who enjoy their work with the Friends and with the SPCO. Jon then asked all the former Friends’ presidents to stand and be recognized in appreciation. Jon acknowledged Katie Berg, who raises 60% of the SPCO revenues through her fundraising work. He feels she is emblematic of the rest of the staff; this is the best staff in the country for orchestras. Jon loves the Friends and feels we are essential in providing a sense of family, which is the resiliency of this organization.

There is no other city, outside of New York City, that supports two orchestras like we do in the Twin Cities, and the Friends work with Jon and his staff together to build this wonderful SPCO organization. There is consistency of great concerts each and every time; the SPCO is dynamic, interesting, and has the most dedicated musicians in all the world right now. The SPCO is striving to be accessible to the community with pricing, to include whole families, through new concert venues in Humboldt High School and other local locations. Jon emphasized that it is not enough to play for a small segment of the community; rather, there is a goal to share it with all

the community. To that point, in May the SPCO mission statement was expanded to add the organization's commitment to accessibility and inclusion of community members.

Recognitions

Penny Chally presented Lynne Beck and Donna Ahrens with roses for their year as co-presidents and for their wonderful leadership as they "cheered us on and cheered us up." Penny then presented Mary Cunningham with a small rose bush to welcome her as the new co-president with Donna. Donna presented Lynne with an outgoing gift and her thanks for her work this past year.

Summary of Trip to Italy

Annette Conklin reported on just returning from Italy, having traveled with the three 14-year-old musicians and their families to the Chamber Music Festival in Mantova. The young musicians performed three times and ironically, performed in the hall where Mozart performed when he was 14 years old. They all had a wonderful time. Annette thanked the members of the Friends who generously donated to help defer some of these families' travel expenses; \$1000 for each family was donated.

Adjournment

Donna Ahrens stated the Annual Report will be posted in the next month or so, as the website is in the process of being redeveloped by Joan Gacki and her committee. The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Indritz, Co-Recording Secretary

Friends of the SPCO
Proposed Internal Audit Procedures: This is done yearly

The task of the audit committee is to verify that the financial information reported to the membership and on the tax return is accurate and complete. This involves verifying the annual report information, cash and investment account balances as reported in the general ledger and the carry forward to the next year of the designated fund balances as reported in the general ledger. In addition, the audit committee should examine the accounting procedures and internal controls for weaknesses. This is accomplished using the following procedures:

- ❖ A random sampling of deposits should be selected to determine whether or not income has been reported correctly in the general ledger and that the deposits are made to the bank in a timely and accurate manner.
- ❖ Verify that the general ledger prepared by the Treasurer matches the financial statements in the Annual Report.
- ❖ All balance sheet accounts in the general ledger should be verified. For example, all bank accounts should be reconciled using the bank statements, the general ledger and the bank reconciliations prepared by the Treasurer. Investment accounts should be reconciled with the investment statements.
- ❖ Restricted Fund balances reflect the amounts of designated monies carried over from one year to the next. Any additions to the restricted funds should be verified.
- ❖ Expenditures from restricted funds should be verified. Parameters of the restricted fund should be consulted to be sure expenditures meet the qualifications of the restrictions.
- ❖ The Treasurer's Report should be compared to the approved budget and significant variances should be investigated.
- ❖ Other procedures may be performed as deemed necessary by the committee to insure accuracy and thoroughness.
- ❖ In addition to the above specific activities, the audit committee should be mindful of the processes and procedures used in the day-to-day financial dealings of the organization. These processes should be reviewed for possible inadequate separation of duties, timeliness and overall "best practices." Weaknesses or suggestions for improvement should be part of the committee's report.

Finance Committee Meeting, August 4, 2017
Internal Audit of the Friends of The SPCO

In attendance: Donna Ahrens, Lynne Beck, Kay Bendel, Annette Conklin, Mary Cunningham, Barbara Osadcky and Betty Reichert. Penny Chally was unable to attend.

Kay and Barbara opened the meeting by describing the accounts.

Two bank accounts: 1) a savings account holding the restricted funds and 2) the checking account that serves the operations of both the Friends management and the Competition.

There are two spreadsheets – one provided by Barbara for the operating income and expenses and one maintained by Kay for the activities of the Competition.

All checks are written by Barbara. Both Barbara and Kay make deposits.

Several items of entry in the spreadsheets were questioned and were verified by Barbara.

The bank balance was confirmed in agreement with the Balance sheet.

All were approved for accuracy in amount.

As always, several entries were questioned regarding the category in which they were placed, and several were requested to be moved into different categories.

The final check for \$22,515 and was presented to the SPCO by June 30.

The report failed to specify the amount generated from the Treasure Sale and therefore restricted for "Connect."

The committee asked Barbra to provide that information to the presidents.

A motion was made by Lynne Beck and seconded by Donna Ahrens to "declare the audit thorough, complete and approved." Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

The Finance committee is composed of the immediate past president(s), current president(s), chairperson of the Competition committee and of the Events committee, and an at-large member of the Friends.

Recommendations are sent to the Officers of the Friends of the SPCO.

Kay Bendel, Chair of the Finance Committee

Balance Sheet for the Friends of the SPCO, 7/1/17–6/30/18

Operating Balance 7/1/2017	\$	8,587.42	
Income 7/1/2017-6/30/2018	\$	51,611.36	
Expenses 7/1/2017-6/30/2018	\$	<u>(44,461.20)</u>	
Operating Balance, 6/30/2018	\$	15,737.58	\$15,737.58
Competition 7/1/2017	\$	17,131.49	
Income 7/1/2017-6/30/2018	\$	16,019.75	
Expenses 7/1/2017-6/30/2018	\$	<u>(16,749.76)</u>	
Competition Balance, 6/30/2018	\$	16,401.48	<u>\$16,401.48</u>
			\$32,139.06
Postal Account (Bulk Mail) 7/1/2017	\$	69.24	
Deposits	\$	-	
Postal Account Balance 6/30/2018	\$	69.24	\$ 69.24
Bremer Savings Balance 7/1/2017	\$	6,647.66	
Income Interest 7/1/2017-6/30/2018	\$	<u>5.98</u>	
Bremer Savings Balance 6/30/2018	\$	6,653.64	<u>\$ 6,653.64</u>
Total Assets 6/30/2018			\$ 38,861.94
Bremer Bank (operating) 7/1/2017	\$	33,555.60	
Outstanding checks/deposits/adj		- 1,416.54	
Postal Account Balance 6/30/2018		69.24	
Bremer Savings Balance 6/30/2018		6,653.64	
PayPal Balance 6/30/2018		<u>0.00</u>	
Total Assets 6/30/2018	\$	38,861.94	
Gift to the SPCO	\$	22,000.00	
Memorials to the SPCO from the Friends	\$	<u>515.00</u>	
TOTAL CASH GIFT TO THE SPCO 6/30/18	\$	22,565.00	

Barbara Osadcky, Treasurer, 7/1/17–6/30/18

**Friends of the SPCO Co-Presidents'
2017–2018 Annual Highlights Report
Ending June 30, 2018**

This year brought old and new Friends together to offer numerous opportunities in support of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra's mission and its musicians. Our fundraising resulted in an annual gift of \$22,000 to the SPCO. In addition, we contributed more than \$500 in memorials for several Friends. Our report covers only the highlights of a rewarding year of events and operations.

In June 2018, Donna attended the three-day 73rd National Conference of the League of American Orchestras, held in Chicago. She concentrated on attending sessions for members of volunteer organizations such as the Friends of the SPCO. The sessions offered a wide range of presentations and discussions on various aspects of volunteer organizations, including education, fundraising events, and attracting new members. The sessions were informative and provided a wealth of ideas to bring back to the Friends, as well as opportunities to meet and talk with members of volunteer groups from across the nation.

At a potluck gathering in August, hosted by Lynne Beck, members of the Friends board and their spouses shared food and conversation. Old and new members had time to get acquainted before the official beginning of another busy year of Friends meetings and events.

In September, the Friends hosted a Welcome Back Luncheon at the Landmark Center for the musicians and staff of the SPCO. This tradition of more than 25 years gives the Friends the opportunity to help kick off the SPCO's new season and connect with musicians over a catered lunch. In June, the Friends hosted an Appreciation Luncheon to toast the musicians and celebrate the close of another successful season.

A new event this year was a style show, which was held at the University Club in St. Paul in October and drew nearly 100 attendees. A luncheon was served, and about a dozen members of the Friends modeled clothing from Chico's, to great applause. This fundraising event was so successful that the Friends board agreed that it should be offered again next year.

In January, we sponsored a demonstration of the SPCO's Concert Library. Launched in December 2017, the SPCO offers its Concert Library programs online, without charge, to make their music more accessible and reach more people in our community, in their homes and in institutions such as senior living facilities, neighborhood centers, schools, and hospitals. Fifteen members of the Friends attended a two-hour presentation by SPCO staff members Matt Thueson, Erin Jude, and Kate Nordstrum, who provided a history of the planning for the Concert Library, shared their observations about its implementation, and demonstrated how to access it and choose from the musical selections.

Later in January, an Evening with Musicians, hosted by Andrea and Steve McCue, drew a full house of Friends. The 25 attendees enjoyed a delightful evening of music by SPCO violinists Maureen Nelson and Eunice Kim, along with hors d'oeuvres, wine and conversation.

The **Youth Chamber Music Competition** semifinals and finals were held in March at Hamline University's Sundin Hall. Chuck Ullery, recently retired principal bassoonist for the SPCO, served as emcee. First place and Grand Prize went to the Fourzando String Quartet, whose members played prior to the Friends-sponsored SPCO concert on May 19. A post-concert reception was held for those who sponsored, volunteered for, and supported the Competition.

Another highlight was the Music at the Museum event, in April, which for the first time was held at the Museum of Russian Art, in Minneapolis. Approximately 170 people attended the event, which featured SPCO musicians Ruggero Alliffranchini, Maiya Papach, and Julie Albers.

Our popular longtime annual events, including the Daniel Freeman Lectures series and Conversation with Books, again offered musical and literary insights to Friends members, guests and the community at large.

Throughout the year, the Friends continued its tradition of providing volunteers for the SPCO's education programming for youth. The programs are now offered at sites in North Minneapolis and the West Side of St. Paul, as well as at the Ordway. We are dedicated to supporting the SPCO's efforts to expand its reach to young people throughout the metropolitan areas.

At the Friends Annual Meeting on June 5, 2018, Betty Andrews and Andrea McCue received the Friend Par Excellence Award. Betty has been active for years in supporting many Friends events, as well as providing space at her condo for Friends monthly meetings. Andrea has been a dedicated Friend for many years, volunteering for countless events. She has chaired the Bylaws Committee, hosted evenings with musicians, and co-chaired Conversation with Books. The Friends also recognized the SPCO's support of the Friends organization. We presented Jon Limbacher and Katie Berg with a print that was donated to a Friends SPCO auction 20 years ago by then-concertmaster Romuald Tecco.

The Friends continued to update its printed materials, Facebook pages and website. The Publicity Committee began working with a website consultant on a makeover that will be both more engaging (for example, by allowing visitors to the site to make donations and purchase memberships and tickets online) and easier for Friends publicity chairs to navigate.

Throughout this busy year, members of the Friends devoted their time and energy as committee chairs, board members, and volunteers. As Co-Presidents, we have been impressed with your expertise, work ethic, and energy and are honored to have served with you in this enthusiastic and hard-working group. Thank you for all you do!

Lynne Beck and Donna Ahrens,
Co-Presidents

Nominating Committee Report
Friends of the SPCO Officers, Committee Chairs and Directors of the Board, 2017–2018

The members of the Nominating Committee were Inez Bergquist, Andrea McCue, Linda van Dooijeweert with Dona Woolfrey as the non-board member at large and Penny Chally, Nominating Chair.

Members of the Friends Board who have served for 6 years and therefore need to rotate off the Board received a personal call. A personal letter was also sent to each of them thanking them for their work and dedication to our organization.

Nominations for Officer positions were filled as well as Committee chairs. There are four new nominations for Directors to the Friends Board. Directors of the present Board were canvassed regarding their willingness to continue on with their terms on the Board.

The Nominating Committee prepared the slate of Officers, Committee Chairs, and new Directors to be sent out with the Annual Meeting/Luncheon Notice a month before the Annual Meeting.

The Nominating Committee of the Friends of the SPCO presented the following slate of Officers, Committee Chairs and New Directors to the Board for 2018–2019.

Officers

Co-Presidents: Donna Ahrens, Mary Cunningham
Treasurer: Barbara Osadcky
Assistant Treasurer: Kay Bendel
Recording Secretaries: Ginger Bailey, Mary Indritz
Corresponding Secretary: Mary Patton

Committee Chairs

By-laws and Parliamentarian: Mary Indritz
Daniel Freeman's Classes: Mary Patton, Ellen Lillemoen*
Education: Jo Bailey, Inez Bergquist
Government Issues: Betty Reichert
Membership: Penny Chally*, Cj Suchta*
Nominating: 2019-2020 Lynne Beck
Public Relations & Website: Joan Gacki, Katie Scarfone
Special Events: Lynne Beck, Betty Reichert; Assistant Chair, Ann Miller
Youth Music Competition: Annette Conklin+; Assistant Chair, Sherry Spence+

* Non-Board Committee Chair +For One Year (for Board reference)

New Directors of the Board

Elizabeth Buschor	Janet Kampf	Betty Reichert
Penny Chally	Ruth Murphy	Cj (Connie) Suchta

Daniel Freeman Lecture Series 2017–18

The topic for our fall series was “Ravel, the Elegant Impressionist.” The average attendance for those classes in October and November was 22. Two participants signed up as new members of the Friends.

The topic for the winter series in January was “Verdi’s Rigoletto: a Tale of Passion, Betrayal and Vengeance.” The average attendance was 21. Seven new names were added to the lecture series mailing list, hopefully as future participants.

The spring series topic was “A Schubert Sampler.” Average attendance for the April series was 18.

All classes were held in the Kirk Parlor at House of Hope Church on Wednesdays, at 10:00 AM. The church staff took care of all set-up needs and provided coffee, tea and serving equipment. Treats were provided by class members.

Daniel’s lectures were consistently informative, interesting and fun. They were supported by printed handouts as well as videos, when needed. Every class was a great pleasure for all and well worth the challenges presented by winter and spring weather.

Financial summary:

Expenses

\$2,400.00 to Daniel Freeman
600.00 to House of Hope Church
302.71 Publicity
\$3,302.71

Income

Tuition
\$7,140.00

Profit from the program

\$3,837.29

Mary Patton and Ellen Lillemoen, Co-Chairs

Education

The Friends of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra again played an integral part in the orchestra's education outreach. An enthusiastic and dedicated group of Friends volunteers were on hand to help with eight Start the Music programs and four Xplorchestra events. At these fun events, volunteers performed a variety of duties, including face painting, making an "instrument" with the children's participation, showing how various instruments are played, and, in general, making sure that the children were having a fun, informative morning as well as listening to a short, themed concert.

Start the Music is geared to children three to six years old; Xplorchestra caters to children aged six to twelve. The children were very excited to attend concerts featuring woodwinds, brass and percussion instruments. Each session was held at the SPCO Center in the Hamm Building in St. Paul. Outreach sessions at the Humboldt High School on St. Paul's West Side, and at the Capri Theatre in North Minneapolis, were very well attended.

Finally, on Saturday, April 14, half a dozen Friends braved a blizzard to volunteer at the first-ever Family Arts Blast at the Ordway. The Arts Partnership (The Schubert Club, The SPCO, MN Opera and The Ordway) sponsored this free event. Families interacted with music, dance, theater and performances of all kinds; they could make or try an instrument, learn new dance moves, try their hand at costume and sound design; attend a show or concert inside the two performance spaces; and much more. Despite the challenging weather, the event was a great success as a way to engage new audience members and share free arts offerings with families and the community.

In addition to these events, the Friends also volunteered at a variety of Friends and SPCO activities as needed. It was a very good year!

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Bailey and Judy McCleery
Co-Chairs, Education Committee

Government Issues

Updated contact information for our state and national elected officials was distributed to all board members with the admonition to keep it in a very accessible location and to use it often. It works for all issues, not only Arts issues.

Lynne Beck attended Arts Advocacy Day at the Minnesota State Capitol on March 6. Inclement weather kept some people home, but a hearty 250 advocates came and talked to legislators. Lynne's group met with two legislators and left packets for four more who were unable to meet. They delivered the message that the arts have a big impact on communities around the state, and each group highlighted the state funds that have supported arts organizations and artists in their district. They also thanked the legislators for their support of the arts and the 47% of Legacy funds that are designated for the Minnesota State Arts Board and Regional Arts Councils.

Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA) is the oldest and most successful state arts advocacy organization in the nation. Because of MCA, Minnesota is the only state with arts funding written into the state constitution. The Legacy Amendment, passed on Arts Advocacy Day 2008, ensures 25 years of funding for the nonprofit arts.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Reichert
Chair, Government Issues

Membership Committee, 2017–18

Yearly duties of the Membership Committee are to update and maintain a data base with current members, encourage new memberships, encourage past members to rejoin, collect and record donations made for membership, send contribution acknowledgments to members, provide labels and email addresses for Friends mailings, and work with the Special Events committee on events to benefit members and increase membership.

The start of this fiscal year for the Friends began with Renewal Request Letters being sent in late August. We continue to accept memberships online through PayPal as well as by check. The membership categories continue at three levels: Individual/Household, \$60; Sponsor, \$100; and Benefactor, \$150+. While there are no specific “perks” to giving at higher levels, it appears most organizations of our type do the same, and having suggested donation levels appears to increase giving.

Our total number of members is 174 with 13 new or returning former members. A change was made on how our members are counted: Instead of counting member families, we are counting each member of that family (e.g., Penny and Cecil Chally = 2 members).

The committee continues to work on increasing members, and continues to work with the Special Events Committee on events that benefit both existing members and prospective members (for example, Evenings with Musicians and the Style Show). These events continue to be well received.

Numbers at a Glance:

Income:	\$11,460.00 checks	Expenses: \$1,370.73
	<u>300.86 by Paypal</u>	
Total:	\$11,760.86	

2018/2019 calendar year collected in advance: \$280

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Chally and Cj Suchta
Co-Chairs, Membership

Publicity/Website, 2017–2018

The following tasks were completed this season:

- Maintained website and Facebook pages.
- Wrote and submitted text to Katie Berg for 3 SPCO program ads for the Friends.
- Photographed 9/19/17 Welcome Back Luncheon for publicity, Facebook and website.
- Designed online and hard copy invitations for mail and email for the Style Show of 10/26/17, as well as a Save the Date and reminder notices.
- Photographed the event for publicity, website and Facebook.
- Updated our Give to the Max 2017 page and designed a 3-day online campaign for the event of 11/16/17. This year we netted \$2,000 from Give to the Max day.
- Designed and sent an email invitation and email reminders for the 2/5/18 Evening with Musicians at the McCue home. Photographed the event for publicity, website and Facebook.
- Submitted announcements to the Villager newspaper for the 3 Daniel Freeman lecture series, as well as 3 online reminder emails.
- Designed 3 ads for different publications for the 2018 SPCO Youth Chamber Music Competition (SPCO-YCMC).
- Submitted announcements to the *Villager* newspaper and other local newspapers.
- Sent out a Save the Date email for the 2018 competition. Used websites and Facebook pages for publicity.
- Photographed the competition semifinals and finals for publicity, websites, Facebook and made photos downloadable for participants and their families, coaches, etc.
- Wrote and sent 3 online newsletters for the Friends in September, January and May.
- Sent emails and reminders for the Concert Library Tour.
- Designed and had printed a hard copy invitation for the April 24 SPCO musicians' recital at The Museum of Russian Art. Published an invitation and reminders online for email and website and created and maintained an Eventbrite page for online payment. Photographed the event for publicity.
- Designed hard copy and online invitations for Conversation with Books on 5/17/18 for direct mailing, online mailing, Facebook, website and email reminders.
- Designed a 2018 SPCO-YCMC ad for publication in the program for the Artaria Chamber Music School string competition.
- Designed and ordered 1100 copies of our program insert for the Friends sponsored-concert on May 19, 2018. (note: this design was also used last year)
- Designed and sent an email invitation for the May 19 post-concert reception at the Ordway to celebrate the SPCO-YCMC competition. Photographed the event for publicity, website and Facebook.
- Negotiated pricing and worked with Geoff Myers of SimDex for website redesign. We will have a modern, intuitive and elegant website by the beginning of the new season in September 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Gacki, Chair

Special Events Report 2017–2018

Seven Friends Special Events were held this year:

September 19 Welcome Back Luncheon for musicians and staff, held in Courtroom 317 in Landmark Center. Chaired by Mary McDiarmid and Betty Reichert.

October 26 Style Show in collaboration with Chico's held at the University Club, St. Paul. Chaired by CJ Suchta. Attendance was over 90; profit was \$1,975.

February 5 Evening with Musicians hosted by Andrea and Steve McCue. Maureen Nelson and Eunice Kim were the featured musicians. Attendance was 24.

April 24 Musicians at the Museum held at the Russian Museum in Minneapolis. Chaired by Mary McDiarmid, Betty Reichert,Carolynn Johnson, CJ Suchta and Joan Gacki. Attendance was 170 (essentially sold-out). Profit was \$2,744.

May 17 Conversation with Books chaired by Kay Bendel and Andrea McCue and held in the Kirk Parlor of House of Hope. Attendance 76; profit was \$1,055. See report on the following page.

June 5 Annual Luncheon at the Mendakota Club in Mendota Heights, chaired by Lola Mae Thompson and Jo Bailey.

June 7 Appreciation Luncheon to celebrate the end of season with musicians and staff. Attendance was approximately 90. Chaired by Mary McDiarmid and Betty Reichert.

Respectfully Submitted,
Betty Reichert and Mary McDiarmid
Co-Chairs

**Special Events:
Conversation with Books**

The 19th Annual “Conversation with Books” was held at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church on May 17, 2018. Invitations were designed by Joan Gacki with a photo of the books provided by St. Catherine University. We went back to the letter style invitation with a reply envelope enclosed and all were mailed first class postage. Andrea covered the printing of 300 invitations of which about 220 were mailed to members of the Friends and to guests who have attended previous years. The remainder were distributed to Board members to hand out or self-mail to friends. Voni Swenson staffed the check-in table and Karen Golden greeted all guests as they arrived. Seventy-six people were present at the event and, as always, they were a very enthusiastic and appreciative audience. Admission was \$25 per person and \$20 for members of the Friends. Joan Gacki provided great email publicity blasts to encourage attendance. Many, many thanks to the many Friends who attended and brought guests to this event.

Co-president Lynne Beck welcomed guests and told them about the Friends organization. Kay Bendel gave a bit of history about the event and introduced the panel.

The four-women panel from St. Catherine University led an entertaining and stimulating discussion of nine books. The panel distributed copies of the list of the books discussed plus additional reading recommendations.

Excelsior Bay Books, a privately owned local bookstore, provided books for sale giving a percentage of the receipts to the Friends. Susan Metzger, Rick Bendel and Lilly Bendel-Stenzel efficiently staffed the book sale table.

Andrea McCue beautifully coordinated and graciously hosted the reception table. Delicious treats, nuts, and fruit were donated by Rick Bendel, Penny Chally, Andrea McCue, Barbara Osadcky, Betty Reichert, Sherry Spence and Voni Swenson. Flowers from Andrea decorated the reception table and check-in tables.

Reservation Income: \$1,670.00

Expenses: (\$670.00) + much donated

Profit: \$1,000 + \$55.44 profit from the book sales = **\$1,055.44**

Andrea McCue and Kay Bendel
Co- Chairs of this event

2017 SPCO Youth Chamber Music Competition

There were eleven applications to the 2018 competition—one in Creative, one in Level B, and nine in Level A. Three did not advance beyond the Video round.

Seven groups performed in the Finalists Recital on Sunday, March 18, including the winners in the Creative Category, the Wind category, and in Level B. The judges awarded one First place, two Second places and a Third place prize.

First place and Grand Prize went to the Fourzando String Quartet, coached by Tom Rosenberg, director of the Saint Paul Conservatory of Music Chamber Music Academy. They performed in the Ordway on Saturday, May 19, preceding the Friends-sponsored SPCO concert. The competition again hosted a reception on the second-tier for winners and their parents, donors, volunteers, advisory board members, and SPCO musicians and staff. I met with two SPCO staff members, who ordered the same menu we had last year from Lake Elmo Inn. We had the Inn provide the coffee, as it cost far less than coffee from the Ordway.

Many thanks are due to Becky Cline and Kate Ailaabouni from the SPCO development office, for ordering and setting up the cheese, fruit, and desserts. Many of the musicians came, as well as Jonathan Cohen, artistic director and harpsichordist, and Jon and Patti Limbacher.

The Level B winners, Trio Luminoso, will participate in a Mantova Chamber Music Festival in Mantua, Italy. On June 1, among other activities, they will perform the entire Beethoven Piano Trio in D, Op. 7 in two or three schools, and attend a master class led by Alfred Brendel. The advisory board of the competition voted **not** to support the travel of the students from the competition's treasury. Consequently, five generous donors—three of them Friends of the SPCO—contributed to give each family \$1,000 toward their travel expenses.

The preliminary estimated financial report prepared by Kay Bendel shows that total income was \$16,019.75. Estimated expenses are about \$18,300. The final report will be available in June. The competition account's balance is estimated to be about \$14,800.

A competition wrap-up wine, appetizer and dessert celebration for the competition's volunteers was held at my home on Thursday evening, May 10. Thirteen attendees contributed delicious food and wine. The meeting was very productive and a fine time was had by all. Thanks to all the Friends who worked on the competition. You were great!!

Because there have never been more than 12 ensembles entering the competition, the Advisory Board voted to eliminate the Semifinal round next year. A committee from the Advisory Board—Chuck Ullery, Mina Fisher, Fred Sewell and I—will meet on June 12 at my home to re-examine the competition's guidelines and bring them up to date for 2019.

The Finalists Recital will be on a Saturday next year — February 23, 2019 —and will be held again at Sundin Hall, Hamline University.

I still need a co-chair for the 2019 competition. Sherry Spence will assist with mailings and non-computer-related tasks, for which I am very grateful.

Respectfully,
Annette Conklin
Competition Coordinator

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL/PAST PRESIDENTS

<u>Years</u>	<u>President(s)</u>
1975-77	Lola May Thompson
1977-79	Ann Meyer*
1979-81	Pat Whitacre*
1981-83	Yvonne Momsen*
1983-85	Betty Zats
1985-87	Jo Bailey
1987-89	Dona Woolfrey
1989-91	Betty Reichert
1991-93	Mary Ann Okner
1993-95	Carol Damberg*
1995-97	Mary Jo Monson
1997-99	Jean Humphries
1999-2001	Mary Frederick
2001-03	Karen Larsen and Sherry Spence
2003-05	Gwen Crabb and Debbie Koop
2005-07	Beth Thornton
2007-08	Kay Bendel and Mary Frederick
2008-10	Annette Conklin and Sherry Spence
2010-11	Carolynn Johnson
2011-12	Carolynn Johnson and Katie Scarfone
2012-13	Katie Scarfone and Inez Bergquist
2013-14	Carol Damberg*, Carolynn Johnson and Katie Scarfone
2014-16	Betty Andrews and Penny Chally
2016-17	Penny Chally and Lynne Beck
2017-18	Lynne Beck and Donna Ahrens

*deceased

ULTIMATE FRIENDS – 1992–2017

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
1992	Skip James
1993	Steve Fox
1995	Tim Brown
1997	Louise King
1999	Pat Whitacre* and Lola May Thompson
2000	Jo Bailey
2001	Betty Reichert
2002	Craig Olson
2003	Gail LaFave and Gail Foreman
2004	Inge Schwochau
2005	John and Karen Larsen
2006	Daniel Freeman
2007	Carm Lennon and Carolyn Collins
2008	Thomson Reuters
2009	Catherine Lupori, Ruth Brombach and Judie Flavahan
2010	Betty Zats and Kay Bendel
2012	Theresa Gienapp
2015	Carol Nimlos, Kathy and Scott Heiderich
2016	Annette Conklin, House of Hope Presbyterian Church
2017	Charles Ullery

EMERITA/EMERITUS AWARDS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
2009	Louise King*
2010	Maggie Wilson, Catherine Lupori* and Peter Lupori*
2011	Lola May Thompson
2012	Betty Zats

*deceased