**Mel Bay Subcommittee**

**Minutes**

**Thursday, April 29, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting**

**The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Zoe Perkins, Chairperson. In attendance: Zoe Perkins, Christy Beckmann, Mark Braun, Ellen Edman, Glenda Hares, Art McDonnell, Bill Ruppert, Kyle Henke (Staff Liaison), Rick Duplissie (KPAC Manager). Not in attendance: Joe Walsh**

1. **CITIZEN COMMENTS –** There were no citizen comments.
2. **NEW BUSINESS**

Bill Ruppert suggested that an exhibition about Mel Bay could be organized, either at the Kirkwood Historical Society or KPAC. Zoe reported that the Missouri Historical Society is doing an exhibition entitled,”St. Louis Sounds” (8/2021-1/22023). She spoke with the curator Andrew Wanko. The exhibition includes bands, radio stations, etc. and will feature 200 objects including Mel Bay’s guitar. There also will be a concert series with big names. Zoe was given the names of the Community Engagement/Events staff. They are happy to work with us.

There was a discussion on logistics of doing a concert, including finding a performer and acknowledging that marketing was key. Also, the topic of VIP level tickets was considered and possible pricing levels and related events (dinner/cocktails) . More discussion is needed with people knowledgeable in this matter. All agreed to continue this project.

Scholarships- Glenda provided information on the UMSL scholarship programs. It showed that amounts provided per year are often flexible depending on the structure (endowment or direct cash) of the scholarship. Further discussion focused on how to disseminate any scholarships- whether need based, underserved based, St. Louis region (or KIrkwood) based, or guitar student based. It was noted that the St. Louis Community Foundation ([stlgives.org](http://stlgives.org)) facilitates scholarships. Christy Beckmann agreed to look into this organization.

Bill Ruppert suggested we contact Sharon Mitchell (retired 2011), who was Mel Bay’s assistant and invite her to be on the committee.. Bill and Zoe offered to meet with Sharon before the next meeting. Other possible resources were mentioned including Charlie Brenner (History/marketer), Soupe Granda, Steve St. Cyr, Joe Edwards (Delmar Loop), and Joe Schwab (Euclid Records).

The need for help with marketing and ticketing was noted.

Zoe proposed that an on-line auction be considered given the numerous musician connections and enthusiasm for the project. And that student scholarships would be a big sell for donations. Zoe felt she had people to organize this and that it could be very profitable.

 Next Meeting Date –May 27, 2021

 **Staff Liaison:** Kyle Henke. Phone: 314-822-5856 Email: henkekk@kirkwoodmo.org

 **Chair:** Zoe Perkins

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