



www.SaveOurSymphonyMN.org

March 24, 2014

Mr. Chuck Lutz
Interim Executive Director
Community Planning & Economic Development
City of Minneapolis
105 Fifth Avenue South #200
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Re: MOA Lease and Lease Agreement

Dear Mr. Lutz:

Save Our Symphony Minnesota (SOSMN) is submitting this letter as an addendum to our correspondence of March 17, 2014 regarding the report of the Minnesota Orchestral Association (MOA) on compliance with the Lease and Use Agreement (Lease) for Orchestra Hall.

The departure of the MOA CEO/President does not cure the MOA defaults described in our previous correspondence. We recognize, however, that the City may be willing to allow the new MOA management an opportunity to demonstrate that it will be able to comply in the future with the financial requirements of Section 9(b)(1) of the Lease.

If the City does grant MOA an exemption from compliance until MOA submits its next annual report, then we recommend that such an exemption be granted only on certain conditions, including changes in MOA governance to provide for public participation and public disclosure.

Here are specific conditions that would promote those objectives:

(1) There should be public representation on the MOA board and MOA committees, including representatives from the City, the state legislature, musicians, and citizen organizations, such as SOSMN, that have demonstrated a special interest in and knowledge of classical music performance. This could begin with participation in the selection of a new CEO/President and new Music Director.

(2) The MOA board meetings and committee meetings should be open to the public except for discussion of those issues classified as confidential under the Data Practices Act.

(3) The minutes of the MOA board meetings and committee meetings should be posted on the MOA web site and available at the MOA office.

(4) The MOA financial statements should be posted on the MOA web site and available at the MOA office.

There may be other conditions that would make the MOA board more responsive, such as a substantial reduction in the number of voting board members from the current number of 80. By comparison, the Walt Disney board has 11 members and the Wal-Mart board has 16 members.

If the City is inclined to grant an exemption to the MOA for one year, we request that the City first declare that the MOA is in default and then grant an exemption on the conditions deemed appropriate by the City Council.

Sincerely yours,

Save Our Symphony Minnesota

MaryAnn Goldstein, Chair

Jon Eisenberg, Vice Chair

Mariellen Jacobson, Treasurer

Nils Halker, Secretary

Michael McNabb, Director

Linda Murrell, Director

Bill Slobotski, Director

cc: Hon. Betsy Hodges, Mayor

Susan Segal, Esq., City Attorney

Ann Calvert, Principal Project Coordinator, CPED