

Artistic Director/Vice President's Report for the Annual Meeting
of the 2015 Washington Island Music Festival, Sept. 28, 2015.

Performances and programs at the 2015 Music Festival were well received as evidenced by audience response and comments throughout the Festival. All fourteen of our regular (two-week) musicians returned for the 2015 Festival and their satisfaction and commitment to the quality of performances were clearly observed in the excellence of the concerts and musicians palpable enthusiasm in their participation.

Program selection and musical assignments were chosen with the idea of presenting a variety of musical styles in works from the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Size of ensembles ranged from 3 to 7 musicians. Major works for the Children's Concert (Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf) and final concert (Mendelssohn: From Heav'n on High) used 16 and 14 musicians respectively, along with our now 40 voice Festival Chorus and two vocal soloists in the Mendelssohn. Variety and selection of the programs were noted by audience members and musicians to have been attractive, interesting, and a pleasing combination and balance of new and old, familiar and unfamiliar.

All Festival Musicians including assisting & guest artists expressed their great appreciation to the Musicfest Board and Manager for their work in organizing the Festival in such a manner as to make possible to focus their efforts on practice, rehearsals and performance during the entire two weeks of the Festival.

All TPAC rehearsals and performance logistics and equipment were extremely well managed by Linda Henkel with ongoing technical support from Emmett Woods.

Our program of 10 events (12 including all 3 "Inside the Notes") continues a successful, if fully packed schedule of 4 chamber music concerts, Children's Concert, Open Rehearsal, Lecture/Discussion, 3 "Inside the Notes" at the Red Barn, Children's Music Camp, and "Under the Big Top". There have been several thoughtful suggestions made to expand or modify our offerings, but given the current schedule it is difficult to see the possibility of expansion or additional events without increasing the length of the Festival.

Coordination between Artistic Director, Manager and Board on musical matters and organizational/administrative related tasks (info for brochure & printed program) was smooth and efficient.

Ongoing community involvement was again centered around our volunteer Festival Chorus, beautifully organized by Chorus Mgr. Patty Herschberger, and prepared by Director Kathi O'Connor. Collaboration with other Island performers and organizations continued with Island Fire Chief and musician Pete Nehlsen performing the narration for the Children's Concert performance of "Peter and the Wolf", and presentation of Island musicians in "Under the Big Top". These collaborations are musically productive and beneficial to the Music Festival in strengthening our role in the community and should be continued and enhanced whenever possible.

2015 musicians reimbursements including per diem, mileage, and ferry boat (\$13,930) were just .94% greater than in 2014 (\$13,047).

We are anticipating and starting to prepare the 2016 program, our 25th anniversary season! We plan on presenting a new work by Mark Petering commissioned for the occasion. We are also hopeful of a commissioned work, premiere performance from Island composer Dan Hansen, discussions currently underway! A selection of musical highlights from past seasons will also be under consideration.

On a personal note I would like to say that it is a great honor and privilege to make music on Washington Island and to serve as Artistic Director of the Festival. I am most thankful for the opportunity of working together and being associated with such an outstanding and dedicated Board of Directors, with special appreciation to Board President, Ham Rutledge and former Manager Joanne Jack.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Colburn
Vice President/Artistic Director