Kalamazoo Concert Band
Meeting Minutes
April 27th, 2026 at 7:00 pm
Location: Keystone Solutions
Recorder: Laurajane Van Niman

Present (In-Person): Mike Grear (President), Laurajane Van Niman (Secretary), Sara Dawson (Board Member), Michael McMinn (Board Member), Nick lavagnilio (Vice President), Jim Medsker (Board Member), Ken Mohney (Board Member), Josiah Solis (Board Member), Anne Gaertner (Board Member)
Present (Virtually): Susan Carter (Board Member), Wendy Patton Leino (Board Member)
Absent: Michael Andres (Treasurer), Larry Ellis (Board Member), Brian Shetterly (Assistant Conductor)
Professionals Present: Tom Evans (Conductor), Shirley Manders (Business Manager)

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mike Greer

1. Revision of Agenda and Additions (Mike Grear)
    - Mike Grear called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
    - There were no revisions or additions made to the agenda.
    - The New Board Member Elects were introduced. They are Wendy Patton Leino and Anne Gaertner. Sara Dawson is returning to her position. Larry Ellis and Nick lavagnilio are leaving their Board positions.
2. Secretary's Report (Laurajane):
    - The minutes from the March 2026 Meeting were reviewed.
    - Ken made a motion that we approve the minutes and Nick seconded the motion. Motion carried to approve the minutes from the March 2026 Meeting.
3. President's Report (Mike Grear):
    - There were no updates for this month.
4. Treasurer's Report (Mike Grear):
    - Mike G. presented Mike A.'s report in his absence.
    - March's Fiscal Year Report:
        - Donations are currently at just under $60,000 through March 2026. This total is almost $5,000 more than was projected in our 2025 - 2026 budget. Current donations stand at $59,827.00 and we projected $55,000.
        - Our total income is over the projected budget by $2,528 thanks to the $7,500 sponsorship the organization received earlier this year. Areas in which we are currently below the projected budget amount include Small Groups (-$2,400), Grants (-$5,200) and Merchandise Sales (-$1,465).
        - Our current total expenses are $18,277 less than what we had projected for this year.
        - Mike Andres is resigning his position as Treasurer effective April 30th. He will be staying on the Board for the remainder of his term.
    - Susan made a motion to accept the March 2026 Treasurer's Report. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. Business Manager's Report (Shirley Manders):
    - Recap for the April Concert - 500 people were in attendance which is a win considering there were so many shows going on throughout Kalamazoo that evening. We received $848 in donations. The audience was very enthusiastic about the band as they left Chenery Auditorium.
    - As we are closing out our fiscal year, Shirley has sent all invoices received to Seber Tans for payment. We will allow the financials for April to be open through May for year end closing.
    - Whenever we need the music room at Kalamazoo Christian, Shirley needs to get it cleared by Kalamazoo Christian before we can approve its use.
    - We received the $4,000 matching grant monies for the current year from Grant monies which closes out the 2025 - 2026 Grant monies.
    - Shirley will be depositing $47,000 on May 1st which is our 2026 - 2027 grant monies to date.

- Shirley is working with Susan and Paul Sizer (our Graphic Artist) and Amy (KRESA) on the mailing materials to be sent to donors around May 20th. This includes the donor letter, donor envelope, season calendar on a magnet and a flyer for the Holiday Concert.
- When Shirley receives the music for the summer concerts she will get that printed with our season schedule on the back.
- There are meetings being planned to handle marketing, membership and venue preparation.
- Shirley will get Ray keys to Kalamazoo Christian so that the percussion section can get in earlier to set up their instruments and equipment in time for the start of rehearsals each week,
- Ken made a motion to approve the 2026 - 2027 budget as presented. Josiah seconded the motion. The motion carried to approve the 2026 - 2027 budget as written.
- Josiah made a motion to pay our guest conductor for the October 2026 Concert $1500. Mike M. seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Mike M. made a motion to pay $500 for the Kalamazoo Community Chorale to perform at our October 2026 Concert. Josiah seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Mike M. made a motion to pay $500 for the Kalamazoo Male Chorus to perform at our October 2026 Concert. Anne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Finance Committee (Mike Grear):
    - The Sponsorship Committee will be meeting in May.
    - Mike G. and Tom will be meeting with Scott Boerma in May to recap and tweak the WMU Student Program for the 2026 - 20257 season.
7. ProMotion Committee (Susan Carter):
    - Graphic designs for Season Teaser 2026-2027 and the preliminary Holiday Concert Flyer are in process.
    - The donor packet is being put together.
    - Next season billboard advertising for the Holiday Concert is already in place.
    - Radio interviews for the Summer Series will be set up this week.
    - An analysis of the local free papers-Good News, Encore Magazine, Spark, etc-to compare coverage, cost, value, etc for advertising, and for submitting articles about upcoming events.
    - Postcard/handouts for summer series will be provided at rehearsals in May.
8. Small Groups (Mike M.):
    - The Brass group is playing for the Arts Council in May. They will also be playing at the Texas Corners Farmers Market and the Beer Garden in Portage.
    - The Fab 5 will be playing on 5/5, 5/7, and 6/30. They will be taking July and August off.
9. Musical Director's Report (Tom Evans):
    - April in Paris:
        - Congratulations to all for such a wonderful concert that also served as a great capstone to a fantastic season! Bravo to all!
        - Unexpectedly, the PowerPoint slide presentation was a big hit! People said it either made them want to go to Paris or that it brought back great memories, although I don't know why the screen was off center
    - Congrats to our YSC soloist who did a marvelous job and was well received
    - October 24 th : "America's Story at 250"
        - After the all-band meeting, I went back and revised the opening concert. I believe this program reflects feedback from that meeting as well as suggestions from band members two months ago.
        - To wit:
        - The concert opens with the Star-Spangled Banner (arr. by John Wiliams)
        - Includes several John Williams pieces (Dry Your Tears, Afrika and Hymn to the Fallen in addition to the SSB arrangement)
        - Features a guest conductor
        - Features a guest soloist
        - Includes two local choral groups (The Kalamazoo Community Chorale and the Kalamazoo Male Chorus)
        - The program starts and ends with a march
        - Includes a major work from the concert band repertoire (Chester)

        - Includes pieces people know (The Battle Cry of Freedom, The Magnificent Seven, Shenandoah, America the Beautiful, and Stars and Stripes Forever)
        - Includes a “fun piece” (Happy Birthday Around the World)
        - The first half has been shortened by 2-3 minutes (to reduce rehearsal time stress)
        - The second-half length is consistent with past programs 26’40”). However, four of the pieces have been performed by the KCB recently with two having been performed this summer (also intended to reduce rehearsal time stress)
        - The theme of the concert, while celebratory, does not shy away from our nation’s more turbulent times (e.g., the slave trade and Native American heritage). The script, which I’ve already begun, will help tell America’s Story through music and words.
        - Need to work with the old and new librarians along with Bob Smith to figure out electronic music folders asap (see the attached program)
    - Neither the KSO nor Miller Auditorium have released their dates. Our concert is currently scheduled for the 24th of October. However, we could move the concert back a week to the 17 th should the KSO or Miller Aud. hold their events on the 24th . Of course, the big problem with moving the concert to the 17th is that we would most likely eliminate the guest conductor and soloist – unless he can reschedule his travel plans. Nevertheless, we need to know who our competition is and try to schedule around them. This is gonna be one hell of a production and we should minimize as much competition as possible
    - December:
        - Had a detailed discussion about the program and other logistical concerns with our December guest artists (Lana Hoffmann and the Terry Lower Trio)
    - February and April Concerts:
        - No additional news to report
    - Miscellaneous:
        - Will have a debriefing session with Scott Boerma, Mike Greer, and Jim Rojeski in June regarding the WMU student internship program
        - For the October 24th, 2026 concert we will need to pay Chris Bradley $1,000 and give an honorarium to the Kalamazoo Community Chorale.
        - For the February concert we will need to pay The Great Lakes Circus too.
10. Assistant Conductor’s Report (Brian Shetterly):
    - The summer program is set. All summer music is either picked up or at Marshall Music to be picked up. Thank you to Dale and Marcia for all of their work to make this happen.
    - I would also like to thank Don O'Donnell for all of his work to keep us set up.
    - With the April Concert the 2026 YSC is a wrap.
    - A reminder. The rehearsals for the Summer Series are May 28, June 4 and June 18 from 7-9:15 at Kalamazoo Christian HS. The Performances are June 7, Bronson Park at 4:00 and June 20, Three Rivers Amphitheater at 3:00.
    - Right now the summer roster includes 73 players with good instrumentation.
    - Finally, I would like to thank Shirley, Tom, the KCB Board and especially the band for what I
    - I think, was one of our best years. The programming, guest artists and performances were all outstanding!
11. Other Topics:
    - The first rehearsal for the 2026 - 2027 season will be on Thursday, September 10th, 2026.
    - Josiah shared that our Youth Soloist winner made a great Instagram post about her experience performing with us.
    - We looked at the Rehearsal Schedule for 2026 - 2027 and edited it to match our concert schedule. Josiah made a motion to approve the 2026 - 2027 Rehearsal Schedule with revisions. Mike M. seconded the motion. Motion carried.
    - We looked at the Board Meeting Schedule for 2026 - 2027. Mike M. made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Schedule for 2026 - 2027. Sara seconded the motion. Motion carried.
    - Susan suggested the Board have a Board Orientation Retreat in late summer/early fall for all new and current Board members.

- A reminder was made to make sure all communication in regards to guest artists and their payments must be communicated to the Business Manager so everyone can be paid. Shirley will write steps for Standard Operating Procedures for paying all vendors, including guest artists.
- The topic and points brought up at our All Ban Meeting were shared by Nick. He will report the priorities of the membership at our next Board Meeting.
- The Membership Committee will be headed by Laurajane Van Niman.
- The Band Grievances Committee will be headed by Laurajane Van Niman and Anne Gaertner.
- Our KCB Board Officers were elected tonight. They are as follows:
    - President - Mike Grear, Susan made a motion to elect Mike Grear as our president. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried.
    - Vice President - Josiah Solis, Sara made a motion to elect Josiah Solis as our Vice President. Mike M. seconded the motion. Motion carried.
    - Treasurer - Mike McMinn, Ken made a motion to elect Mike McMinn as our Treasurer. Anne seconded the motion. Motion carried to elect Mike McMinn as our Treasurer. Mike will now need to be added to our PNC Bank Account.
    - Secretary - Laurajane Van Niman, Susan made a motion to elect Laurajane Van Niman as our Secretary. Ken seconded the motion. Motion carried.

12. Our Board Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm. Josiah made a motion to adjourn our meeting and Sara seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Ken made a motion to go into a Closed Session Meeting at 8:26 pm. Josiah seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Ken made a motion to come out of the Closed Session Meeting at 9:01 pm. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried

The next Board Meeting will be on Monday, June 1st, 2026 at Keystone Solutions at 7:00 pm. Keystone Solutions is located at 6387 Technology Avenue, Suite F, Kalamazoo, MI.

Recorded By: *Laurajane Van Niman*
KCB Board Secretary

Approved on___04/27/2026_____