

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Peter Benoliel** <Peter.Benoliel@quakerhoughton.com>

Date: Sun, Dec 1, 2019 at 4:15 PM

Subject: Letter to the GTMF Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

We are sharing with you the letter sent earlier today to each member of the GTMF Board over the signatures of a number of past Chairs and Directors of the Festival. We are cautiously optimistic that the Board will act responsibly and favorably.

Best regards to all,

Peter

To the Board of the GTMF

Subject: The Right Thing to Do

Your Chair has wisely called you together to review the recent ill-considered actions of your President and CEO. The decisions you make today will undoubtedly determine the future existence of the Grand Teton Music Festival. The issue before you is the continued employment of Andrew Palmer Todd, whose poor judgment, off-putting relations with the musicians, the Music Director and many friends of the Festival cry for your review. All of this has been corroborated by the Music Director in his recent letter to you and the many letters received from musicians declaring themselves unavailable for the 2020 season unless the three dismissed musicians are reinstated. The atmosphere is so toxic, mediation and other third-party interventions would be useless. You have more than sufficient grounds for dismissal.

Without the musicians, you will have either a severely compromised 2020 season or none at all, with the longterm future of the Festival virtually disappearing. It should be well understood that world-renowned conductors such as we have in Donald Runnicles are few in number and not easily available, in stark contrast to the supply of qualified individuals who could fill the top management position. The decision is yours to make—namely reinstate the severed musicians and dismiss the President and CEO. Indeed such an outcome could become your greatest legacy as directors.

Longer-term, you must consider steps to ensure the inclusion of musicians in the governance of the Festival (as is the case with a growing number of major orchestras) and put in place practices that are transparent—certainly not the case today. Obviously there is much work to be done!

The moment is at hand. Your decision to reinstate the three musicians and dismiss the President and CEO will ensure the 2020 season and preserve for the future our wonderful Orchestra under the inspiring leadership of Donald Runnicles to the delight of our audiences. Please do the right thing.

Respectfully,

David Auge

GTMF Director (2004-2012) and Board Chair

Joseph Bennett

GTMF Director (1997-2008) and Board Chair

Peter A. Benoliel

GTMF Director (1986-2003; 2009-12) and Chair, Artistic Committee

Peter Coxhead

GTMF Director (2004-2009; 2011-12) and Chair, Education Committee

Larry Finch

GTMF Director (2004-2007; 2009-12) and Chair, Investment Committee

Jayne C. Hilde

GTMF Director (1991; 2003-2009) and Board Chair

Al Hilde, Jr.

GTMF Director (1995-2000; 2004-2009) and Board Chair

Edgar Masinter

GTMF Director (1998-2003)

Gilman Ordway

Founder and GTMF Director (2013-14)

Robert Paulson

GTMF Director (2000-2001; 2004-2009) and Board Chair

W. Richard Scarlett, III

GTMF Director (1986-1994; 2004-2010) and Board Chair

Mary Seidler

GTMF Director (2000; 2004-2009)

Stan Seidler

GTMF Director (1992-2000; 2010-11) and Chair, *Home on the Range*

Sen. Alan K. Simpson

GTMF Director (1986-1998)

Allan Tessler

GTMF Director (1997-2008; 2013-2019) and Board Chair

William D. Weiss

GTMF Director (1989-1995) and Board Chair