



APPLICATION

Grant Information

Project Title (*automatically populated*): 2020-03-20 Philharmonic Society of Orange County

***Amount Requested:** \$75,000

***Purpose of Grant/Goal:**

The Philharmonic's Youth Music Education programs support music access for 100,000 students throughout Orange County – the majority of whom are low-income kids in Title I schools – to ensure that they have access to musical education, performances, instruments and training that inspires a life-long love of music.

Executive Summary

The Philharmonic Society of Orange County is dedicated to promoting world class music for Orange County – presenting it, teaching it, supporting it, and developing it. As Orange County's oldest music organization – founded in 1954 – the Philharmonic Society has a long tradition of presenting the world's greatest symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, soloists, and international artists in concert. We also are proud to have served more than six million school children with music education programs for youth over the past 66 years.

The Philharmonic Society is seeking \$75,000 from the Hearst Foundation to support our Youth Music Education (YME) programs. In alignment with the Hearst Foundation's priorities, our YME programs are designed to effectively fill the void of music programming in K-12 curricula in Orange County schools, providing access, education, and training to encourage young people to develop a lifelong relationship with the arts. Through our free YME programming, we reach more than 100,000 students annually, with more than 60% of students served in Title I schools (which are those schools with high percentages of children from low-income families).

Organizational History and Purpose

Founded in 1954, the Philharmonic Society of Orange County plays an important role in the community by presenting access to world-class orchestras, chamber ensembles, soloists, and international artists that regional audiences would otherwise not be able to experience. With a mission “to foster an appreciation for music by presenting national and international performances of the highest quality while also providing dynamic and innovative music education programs for individuals of all ages,” the Philharmonic Society has presented the Vienna Philharmonic, the Berlin Philharmonic, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, violinist Joshua Bell, and soprano Renée Fleming, among many other professional artists from throughout the world. We provide concerts and performances at a variety of venues throughout Orange County, including the Irvine Barclay Theatre, Musco Center for the Arts, Soka Performing Arts Center, and the 2,000-seat Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall at Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Additionally, since 2002 the Philharmonic Society has partnered with Laguna Beach Live! to co-present the annual Laguna Beach Music Festival, an annual multi-day celebration featuring outstanding classical and contemporary concerts in intimate spaces, community outreach programs and dynamic special events.

Our nationally-recognized YME programs are a critical component of our mission and provide dynamic and innovative music education programs for young people. Our YME programs – offered free to public and private school students and reaching over 100,000 children (K-12) each year – are developed to be grade-appropriate and enhance classroom curriculum. The Philharmonic Society’s YME programs have launched six generations of students on a lifelong journey of musical discovery to connect with classical music and generate interest in the study and performance of instrumental music.

The Philharmonic Society receives financial support from a range of sources – from individual giving and memberships to corporate sponsorships and foundation grants. Specialized community-based committees have served as the bedrock for fundraising for the YME programs for decades. However, in recent years, these committees have been increasingly challenged in raising the much-needed funding from community members and local groups/organizations to support YME programs. The Philharmonic Society needs to diversify our funding sources in order to maintain – as well as further refine and expand – our YME programs for underprivileged youth in Orange County.

Statement of Need

For decades, studies have confirmed that arts education has a significant and long-lasting impact on young people’s intellectual and emotional development, academic success, and ultimate career success. Yet, funding for arts education has declined through the years. According to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), over the past 19 years arts funding for state arts agencies has decreased 19.8% (or 43.4%, after adjusting for inflation) (NASAA, “State Arts Agency Revenues: Fiscal Year 2019,” February 2019).

This funding for state arts agencies is needed to advance arts education in schools and supply grants to artists and arts organizations. In 2018-19, California ranked 26th out of all 50 states in arts funding per capital (NASAA).

Additionally, funding to California's schools falls short of meeting actual costs, as California is 41st in the nation in per-pupil funding. (National Education Association and Texas A&M University, 2015-2016). In the midst of budget shortfalls, often "non-essential curriculum" such as music and the arts are cut. The situation in Orange County is exceptionally dire. Regionally, enrollment in Orange County has been declining since the 2012-13 school year (Education Data Partnership, showing a 4.6% decline from 501,801 students in 2012-13 to 478,823 in 2018-19). As a result, the Orange County Department of Education is considering a measurable budget cut for the coming year across the board, causing even greater economic hardship for Orange County's schools. This doesn't bode well for the region's students and their access to the arts. Support for the Philharmonic Society's YME programs is more necessary and vital than ever before.

Nation-wide data demonstrates that exposure to and knowledge of music is lacking in our youth. The most recent National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Art Assessment in 2016 reports an average score in music of 147 out of 300 among 8th graders across the nation. The assessment further illustrates disparities in music education in American schools based on race and socio-economic status. Caucasian students scored 17% higher than Hispanic students and 22% higher than African American students. Low-income 8th graders who qualify for the free or reduced priced lunch program scored 19% lower than those students not in the program. English language learners scored 27% lower than non-English language learners. In measuring students' access to musical opportunities both inside and outside of school, NAEP discovered that only 17% of 8th graders play in a band at school; 35% have ever played a musical instrument outside of school; 55% have ever talked to family or friends about music; 67% have ever listened to musical performance in a theater; and 71% said their district or state has a curriculum in music that their school is expected to follow.

For young people to be fully prepared to benefit from their K-12 education and embark confidently on the path toward lifelong learning, self-expression, and success, they need to receive a complete education that includes exposure to music and the arts. Music education equips students with foundational skills to learn, bolsters student engagement and achievement in a variety of subjects, and develops the abilities essential for lifelong prosperity (Arts Education Partnership, "Music Matters," May 2018). The Philharmonic Society's YME programs fill a critical gap in music education for Orange County's K-12 students. We collaborate with local schools to provide musical enrichment such as concerts, meet-and-greet professional musician experiences, and integrated learning such as performances, seminars, demonstrations, workshops, and assemblies. Our music education programs have become the primary source for music exposure, access, and education for elementary, middle, and high school students throughout Orange County, particularly in low-income public schools where funding and resources are scarce.

Program Description

Starting with the second grade, the Philharmonic Society creates pathways for youth leading through adulthood to promote music appreciation, music education, and musician training. With each year of participation in our music education programs, youth have deeper access to music and musicians – ideally culminating in long-term connections to music, whether as patrons or performers. Our programs provide everything from basic music instruction for elementary school students to masterclass learning opportunities and the Orange County Youth Symphony for the county’s most talented young musical artists.

The Philharmonic Society is requesting a \$75,000 grant from the Hearst Foundation to fund the continuation, refinement and expansion of our YME programs. We are committed to ensuring that Orange County students have access to musical education, performances, instruments, and training that supports their cognitive and social development and inspires a life-long love of music. Our YME programs will provide 94,800 elementary school students, 9,300 middle school students, and 2,580 high school students in Orange County with pathways to music education, from live performance opportunities to high quality musicianship training. At least 33% of these students will be low-income and/or minorities. Our programs will inspire and support youth’s interest in music and performing arts, advance awareness of music’s connection to culture and community building, and provide a platform for self-expression.

Our Youth Music Education Programs, as detailed below, provide consistent and comprehensive access to music education and opportunities from 2nd-12th grades. All programming is based on the California Visual and Performing Arts Standards. History, Social Science, English, and Language Arts standards are integrated into the musical programming to ensure that the arts are both relevant and supporting district, state, and national standards.

- Our program offering for our youngest students -- **Concerts for 2nd Grade** -- introduces 13,000 youth to live performances that integrate classical music, introduction to instruments, and storytelling.
- In their next year, third graders get a more direct experience with the instruments of the orchestra through our Music Mobile. The **Music Mobile** travels to regional schools to introduce the symphony orchestra and musical concepts through engaging, hands-on experiences with instruments, which reach 14,000 3rd graders county-wide.
- Building on this, **California Journeys** is a program that we host in conjunction with Mission San Juan Capistrano, Heritage Hill Historical Park and Bowers Museum. Developed for 4th graders, musicians and tour guides combine to take students on a journey into the history of California, integrating art and music with state-wide curriculum requirements.
- **Concerts for Fifth Grade** transports 12,300 students to the René and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall for an unforgettable performance by kids not much older than they are who are part of the Orange County Youth Symphony Orchestra.

- **World Music Concerts for Sixth Grade** exposes 2,500 students to new rhythms and sounds from various cultures through engaging performances.
- One of the largest programs of its type in the United States, the **Musicians On Campus** program brings professional brass, woodwind, percussion and string groups to visit elementary schools in the county for performances and demonstrations to 50,000 4th, 5th and 6th grade students.
- At middle schools, professional groups perform a variety of musical styles and instrumentations for the whole student body at a cross-section of schools throughout the county. This is a key component to the **Ensembles On Tour** program, which is presented in cooperation with the American Federation of Musicians and reaches 8,500 students annually.
- For ongoing teacher support and exposure to music and arts learning, we offer Musical Me for students from 2nd through 8th grades. This daily CD listening program introduces young people to an extensive array of classical music throughout the school year, and offers teachers research-based curriculum along with readings and classroom prompts to supplement the CDs, encouraging in-depth learning and focused listening.
- **Strike Up The Band** grants musical instruments to K-12 schools to enhance and grow their existing music programs and provide for the creation of new music programs, benefitting 2,500 youth. This is an enormous assistance to low-income families who cannot afford to rent or purchase a musical instrument themselves.
- For older children, we offer two primary programs to support their ongoing interest in music. This includes the **High School Orchestra Festival**, a one-day adjudicated event featuring Orange County ensembles performing at the René and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, reaching nearly 1,000 high school students. The second is **Tix for Teens**, which provides 650 high school students with complimentary tickets to Philharmonic Society series concerts to expose them to world-class performances.
- **OC Youth Symphony/String Ensemble** consists of more than 80 students from over 45 schools who participate in an honor orchestra, meet once a week during the school year, participate in a leadership retreat, and perform in over 10 concerts per season. The program is a capstone to a years-long investment in building access, training, and engagement with the arts for young people in Orange County. The OCYS roster represents student musicians from nearly 50 high school and college programs, from San Clemente to Fullerton and beyond. The Orange County Youth Symphony community of young musicians and their families is particularly committed to advancing and sharing the intercultural love of orchestral music. For 50 years, the Orange County Youth Symphony has traveled the world representing Orange County's best young adult musicians in performances in Austria, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, and at the United Nations and Carnegie Hall, including an appearance in a documentary entitled *Beethoven's Ninth: Journey to Joy* that was selected by PBS SoCal for multiple broadcasts.

These programmatic building blocks provide the foundation for strong training in the cultural arts and a deeper understanding of music. Through these programs, we are not only bringing music to the community, but we are also ensuring that Orange County students have access to musical education, performances, instruments, and training that promotes their cognitive and social development and inspires a life-long love of music. These programs are offered at no charge to schools, students or parents, and available to all Orange County public and private schools, and have been one of the primary supplements to make up for the lack of funding for music education in our county's schools.

The Hearst Foundation's financial support will enable the Philharmonic Society of Orange County to maintain high quality YME programming for young people throughout the region. With your help, our service-based programs can continue to broaden access for underserved young people and disenfranchised families by opening doors they might not otherwise have access to, such as musical performances, training, and education.

Evaluation/Goals

***Evaluation Process:** *Briefly describe your organization's Evaluation Process for the near-term and long-term, and how the results will be used by the organization.* **Limit: 500 characters. Current: 489**

We will utilize surveys to obtain teacher observations and student self-assessments of changes in students' musical awareness and knowledge and access to musical opportunities following participation in YME programs. The OC Youth Symphony/String Ensemble Musical Director will evaluate changes in participating youth's leadership skills. We will utilize this data plus demographics to make improvements to our YME programs so that we are maximizing access to and impact of music education.

Goal #	Description	# Goal	% Goal
#1	Of the 104,100 participating youth in 2 nd – 8 th grades, number and percentage of students will report that YME programs expanded their awareness of musical instruments, different forms of music, and connection between music, culture, and history.	83,280	80%
#2	Of the 106,680 participating students in 2 nd – 12 th grades, number and percentage of students will report that YME programs increased their access to musical opportunities (listening to and/or playing live music).	85,344	80%
#3	Of the 80 young musicians (8 th – 12 th grades) participating in the OC Youth Symphony/String Ensemble, number and percentage of youth will demonstrate improved leadership skills while in the program.	56	70%