HIGHLAND FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

EXAMPLE

Title of Project or Name of Professional(s)-in-Residence:
"Electrify Your Strings!" with Bridgid Bibbens

Summary Statement about the Project:

"Electrify Your Strings" is a rock orchestra program for school-age string students designed by Trans-Siberian Orchestra member Mark Wood. Its purpose is to expose string students to aspects of 21st-Century "non-traditional" (other than classical) music such as improvisation, syncopation, blues scales, and specialty articulations. The program is also intended to energize and inspire string students and the community. Students will learn performance techniques as well as explore the cultural significance of rock music as they prepare selections for a December workshop and concert with electric violinist Bridgid Bibbens.

Total Projected Budget: $4775.00 **Grant Amount Requested:** $4775.00 **Other Funding Sources?** none

Amount Received or Anticipated from Other Funding Source(s): 0

Building: Highland High School & Highland Middle School

Grade Level(s): 6 - 12 **# of Students:** approx 100 **# of Teachers:** one **# of Classes:** four

Special Needs Group being Served (if applicable): _____

Expected Project Duration: 2 1/2 months **Anticipated Project Completion Date:** Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011

Project Applicant ("Project Director"):

Name Rachel Gamin Position Director of Orchestras School: High School, Middle School

Signature of Project Applicant ("Project Director") Rachel M. Gamin 5/24/2011

Work Phone 330-239-1901 x 5304 Home Phone 330-241-4178

Home Address 1015 Ty Drive City / Zip Medina, OH 44256

Name(s), Grade level(s) and signatures of anticipated additional Project participants (if applicable):

_____ Signature _____

_____ Signature _____

_____ Signature _____

Statement of Support:
I have studied the attached Grant Application and believe the project envisioned is a valuable and appropriate undertaking, which reflects the core values and goals of the Highland School District. I affirm that it is my responsibility as an administrator or member of the professional staff to monitor the project's progress if Grant funding is awarded, and assist in the project's successful and timely completion.

J Dever 5-24-11
Building Principal's signature (Required) Date

_____
Department Chair signature*

Laura Boehler
~~Ann Johnson~~, Director of Curriculum*
Laura Boehler

_____
Roger Saffle, Technology Coordinator**

* At a minimum in all cases, obtain the signature of either the Director of Curriculum, or the Department Chair.

** The signature of the Technology Coordinator is also **required** if the Project anticipates any new, upgraded, or expanded use of technology other than what is already in place.

DATE SUBMITTED: 5/24/2011

Approved? Yes No Date: _____

Reason for NON-Approval: _____

"Electrify Your Strings" with Bridgid Bibbens and The Highland Local Schools Orchestra: A Grant Proposal

I. Budget (Based on most recent quotes and fee schedule)

Fee for Guest Artist and Materials (Includes 2-day workshop, final concert, sheet music, and instructional materials)	$3000.00
Travel Expenses (airfare,car rental) for Guest Artist	$1200.00
Lodging for Guest Artist: (2 days/3 nights @ $125/night)	$ 375.00
Food allowance for guest artist ($50/day for 3 days)	$ 150.00
Transportation for MS students to HS for workshop	$ 50.00
GRAND TOTAL (PROJECTED)	**$ 4775.00**

No current supplemental sources of funding are anticipated.

II. Timeline

a. July/August 2011: $750 (25% of workshop fee) deposit due upon approval of grant & submission of contract to hold desired concert date
b. Upon confirmation of concert date, music is provided to begin preparation
c. October 3 – December 5: Music prepared in string classes
d. December 7 – December 8: Balance of fee due to visiting artist
   2-day intensive workshop for students with guest artist
e. December 8, 2011 7:00 pm – Final Concert at Highland High School
   All other expenses (hotel, meal allowance, travel) due

III. Project Description

a. Summary:

"Electrify Your Strings" is a rock orchestra program designed by Trans-Siberian Orchestra member Mark Wood. Its purpose is to expose string students to modern playing techniques, including blues scales, syncopated rhythms, non-traditional articulations, and improvisation.

"Electrify Your Strings" is also designed to help spur interest in the string program among students and the community by providing a positive, high-energy and high-profile event. Students will be immersed in rock-style performance, which includes dealing with complex rhythms, advanced scale patterns, executing advanced bow techniques, and learning to improvise independently. Students will have the opportunity to perform as soloists and orchestra members.

More information can be found at http://www.electrifyyourstrings.com

b. Methods and Activities:

1) Students will begin working on the "EYS" music as part of the overall strings curriculum in early to mid-October. All early music preparation will be done by Rachel Gamin, Orchestra Director for the Highland Local Schools, during normal class time as a part of the overall strings curriculum.

2) Techniques used will include (but are not restricted to): Rhythmic analysis of syncopations and ties; Blues scales in addition to traditional major/minor; Basic improvisation training starting with single-chord simple-rhythm structure and becoming more complex as needed; and study of the historical background and cultural significance of rock music in the United States and worldwide.
3) Upon the guest artist's (Bridgid Bibbens) arrival on December 7, she will work with the students in a two-day workshop. Day One (12/7) will probably involve the students in their individual string classes at the middle school and high school, and Day Two (12/8) will bring all students together to rehearse for the evening concert.
4) The final concert showcasing the students' work will be help at the Highland High School Auditorium on Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

c. Support of Curriculum:

Electrify Your Strings! aligns with the National Standards for Music Education, specifically:

2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music;
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments;
5. Reading and notating music; and
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

d. Involvement of Students, Staff, and Community:

1) Students: This is, first and foremost, a project by and for the middle school and high school string students, who will be actively involved in learning and performing throughout the preparation, workshop, and concert stages. Students may also assist in publicizing the event to friends and family.
2) Staff: The cooperation and support of other staff will be necessary and appreciated, but other than auditorium preparation and concert supervision, no duties will be required of any staff members other than Mrs. Gamin.
3) Community: The community will be invited to enjoy the performance, and parent volunteers may be used to help with setup, publicity, and chaperoning during the event.

e. Duration and Plans to Continue:

1) The project will begin with the receipt of sheet music in early-to-mid-October, culminating with the two-day workshop on December 7 and 8 and the final concert on December 8, 2011.
2) The skills students will develop in the course of this workshop will have an impact on all areas of their musicianship, since intonation, rhythm, and improvisation are core musical skills. Students will be afforded opportunities to hone and refine their skills through composition, improvisation, and alternative style performances even after the December concert.

3) The results of the project will be shared with others through the public performance on December 8, 2011.

IV. Background of Project Director and Artist-in-Residence

a. Rachel Gamin, Director of Orchestras, Highland Local Schools

While my experience as a music educator and string specialist has prepared me for the demands of teaching the students in a wide variety of techniques and styles, I have wanted to expand my training to include "non-traditional" (generally taken to mean "non-classical") styles. String playing in the 21st century has become much wider in scope than just the Old Masters, and students have an interest in all sorts of different styles, especially rock music. I believe that bringing the Electrify Your Strings! Program will help energize and increase interest in our new and growing orchestra program, will help with student retention, and most importantly, will expand the students' technical ability and overall understanding of music in a way that is relevant to them. I propose this not as a replacement to traditional classical orchestral training and repertoire, but as an enhancement and expansion of the program overall. I opted to request a guest artist with more experience than myself with rock and improvisation techniques so that I can enhance my own understanding and teaching through observation and team instruction. One of my professional goals is to become more versed and fluent in non-traditional string styles and teaching methods: this 2-month immersion will help forward this goal and my professional growth, and will help me to bring even more energy and variety into my classroom as a result.

This is my first request for a Foundation Grant.

b. Bridgid Bibbens, Guest Artist

Bridgid Bibbens is a classically-trained violinist who has recently discovered how much fun it is to cross over to the "dark side". She has performed with major artists in the rock, pop and jazz worlds, such as Christina Aguilera, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Tommy Lee (Motley Crue), Gilby Clarke (Guns 'N' Roses), Johnny Colt (the Black Crowes), Mary J Blige, Jay-Z, John Mayer, Alicia Keys, Josh Groban, Harry Connick, Jr. and Frank Sinatra, Jr. Television appearances include NBC's Today Show, the CBS Early Show, The Late Show with David Letterman, and a special broadcast for New York City's PBS affiliate. She's played to sold-out audiences in Madison Square Garden and Boston's Banknorth Garden. She's also performed with Mark Wood and the Mark Wood Experience on numerous occasions, including a video for PBS and performances at the 2008, 2009 and 2010 NAMM shows in Anaheim, CA.

After starting violin lessons at the tender age of 3, Bridgid received a full scholarship from Syracuse University, where she received her

bachelor's degree in violin and oboe performance and her master's degree in music education. In the role of educator, Bridgid directed public school orchestra programs in upstate New York and Boston, MA for over 10 years.

Bridgid joined the staff of Mark Wood Music Productions and Wood Violins in August 2007 and has been trained by Mark Wood in his groundbreaking educational methods in conjunction with his "Electrify Your Strings!" series of music education programs. She now travels the country with her 7-string electric Viper, sharing her passion for music of all genres with orchestra students in public schools all over the country.

(Biographical Information provided by Electrify Your Strings!)