

## **Strauss Foundation Proposal**

### **Tucson Summer Music (Tucson AZ USA)**

The current economic crisis has greatly depleted funding for K-12 education (Brewer). In FY 2012 alone, funding for K-12 education was cut by \$183 million in Arizona (Howard Fischer Capitol Media Services). This is on top of a 10% cut to education in 2010 after Arizona was ranked number 50 for per-pupil spending (Godfrey). This has resulted in the sorrowing statistic that only 36% of the 107 schools in Tucson Unified School District have performing arts programs (Tucson Unified School District). As funding is cut to schools, the first programs to be eliminated are performing arts.

As the economic crisis has intensified, the unemployment rate has grown from 4.1% in 2007 to 10.4% in 2009, finally decreasing only slightly in 2011 to 8.7% (Bureau for Labor Statistics). The doubled unemployment rate indicates that families have tighter budgets. On average, music lessons can cost between \$260 per year if the family already owns the instrument to \$3,079 per year\* if the family must rent an instrument and the student is taking lessons from a professional musician. As funding is cut for programs in the public school system and families' budgets are tightened due to unemployment and pay cuts, many students may not have the opportunity to express themselves through music.

In response to this deficit, I started my program, Tucson Summer Music, in November of 2009. Tucson Summer Music (TSM) provides a twofold service to the community. On one hand it provides free 30-minute music lessons to children aged 6-13 from low-income families. On the other hand it also provides local music students an opportunity to gain experience teaching on their instrument. TSM runs through the months of June and July, and each student receives one free lesson per week. The program ends with a final recital meant to acquaint the students with performing in front of a group.

TSM has shown success through enrollment numbers over the past two years indicating a need for the program in the Tucson community. During the first summer of 2010, the program offered lessons on flute, guitar, and piano. The program had six teachers: two flute teachers, one guitar teacher, and three piano teachers. These teachers instructed 13 students. During the second summer of 2011, these statistics improved. The program offered lessons on flute, guitar, piano, and clarinet: two flute teachers, one guitar teacher, four piano teachers, and one clarinet teacher for a total of eight. Four of those eight teachers, including myself, also taught during the previous summer.

TSM has had the great fortune of locating free venues for each of the summers. The first summer, TSM was located at St. Cyril School. We were able to use two rooms at the school for the entirety of the summer. During the summer of 2011 and this upcoming summer of 2012, the program has been fortunate to use the classroom facilities at St. Philip in the Hills Parish. St. Philip's Parish also runs an afterschool program from August through May where students are able to receive free music instruction and homework tutoring. Therefore, St. Philip's and TSM have formed a partnership where we work to ensure that the students in both of our programs have the opportunity to have free year round music instruction.

Students for this program are between the ages of 6-13 and are accepted from both public and private schools around Tucson. Students are recruited through emails, fliers at schools, and presentations by teachers at the schools. Students are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis

according to the number of volunteers available. There is no specific income requirement for this program. Instead, the program operates on the assumption that if families had the means and interest to take music lessons, the students already would be taking them and would not switch instructors for two months. For the past two years, this assumption has worked perfectly. The student participants have either been from low-income families or from families where the children are busy with other activities and the family has no other resources for music lessons.

Teachers for this program, including myself, are all unpaid volunteers. The majority of volunteers are recruited from the University of Arizona and Pima Community College. High school students have also participated as volunteers after special consideration. The process of being accepted by TSM includes filling out an application with three references, attending an interview session which discusses qualifications and teaching plans, and obtaining a fingerprint card from the police department for a background check. I personally review all the applications, call the references, review the discussions during the interview, and submit the paperwork for the background checks to ensure the safety of the participants. In previous years, volunteers were recruited through the University of Arizona's JobLink website, fliers around the campuses, Facebook, and email listservs. This summer, TSM will be participating in the University of Arizona School of Music internship program. This will allow teachers from the University of Arizona to obtain college credit for their participation. At the end of the program, I will write a letter concerning their time and effort to the University who will issue a final grade for their transcript.

For the previous two years, the program has mainly been funded through donations from Bill Bing, a Caltech music professor, and the Caltech-Occidental Concert Band. These donations covered the \$157.31 in expenses incurred during 2010, and part of the \$828.62 incurred during 2011. On July 4, 2011 the Arizona Daily Star printed a story concerning TSM on the front page of the newspaper. This story helped to raise \$393 in monetary donations and 14 instrument donations for the program. While these donations helped to make TSM possible, the expenses of the program have increased with the number of participants. The Strauss Foundation can help to make TSM a permanent part of children's lives through the formation of a sustainable foundation.

A large portion of the budget each year is put towards rental assistance for the students. \$256.51 was spent on rental instruments over two years. TSM's goal therefore is to purchase instruments for the program's use that can be lent to students free of charge in an effort to save money over the long run. This summer the program will begin to lend the 14 donated instruments, but before that can occur, the instruments collectively require \$445 worth of repairs. Along with paying for instrument repairs, donations from the Strauss Foundation will contribute to purchasing three used flutes (\$600), three used clarinets (\$600), three used violins (\$600), two used guitars (\$250), two used saxophones (\$300), and two used trumpets (\$300) for program use. The purchase and future use of these instruments will greatly contribute to the program's ability to develop and provide assistance to added students.

In addition to fees associated with the instruments, the rest of the program's budget has contributed to administrative costs. State Farm Insurance is purchased at \$60 for two months, the fingerprints and background checks cost \$150 per summer, the TSM phone by TracFone which uses minute cards costs \$22 every 60 days, and printed materials including fliers and programs cost \$75. These costs are necessary for the program to occur.

With the help of funding from the Strauss Foundation, I hope to expand TSM to be a professional, recognized, and permanent program within the Tucson community in order to

positively affect more children's lives. The expansion and institutionalization planned for this summer include adding mariachi instruments to the types of lessons offered, the provision of t-shirts and sheet music to participants, a scholarship for the most promising musician, and IRS 501(c)3 status.

Tucson has a rich Mexican culture which is valued greatly by the community. For this reason, I would like to add mariachi instruments to the list of possible lessons. Luis Ranjel, a student at the University of Arizona and a member of Mariachi Tapatio de Tucson, will be helping to recruit students and teachers for this addition. To begin this tradition, it would be beneficial to purchase the mariachi instruments as they are very expensive to rent. I plan to purchase one Michoacano Guitarron (\$669), one Michoacano Standard Vihuela (\$359), one Sevillano Guitarra de Golpe (\$659), and one Sevillano Mariachi Guitar (\$889).

The key to successful recognition among the community is advertisement. One beneficial way of advertising directly to the audience that the program seeks is through t-shirts. Participants who wear the t-shirts can help to spread the word about the program. T-shirts for the participants will cost around \$500.

TSM also plans to spread its influence beyond just instrument lessons to music theory as well. Both program summers, the majority of students had no prior music experience. Through hour long group music theory lessons each week, the program will be able to give the students a solid foundation. Charles Zoll, a piano teacher from the 2011 summer and a student at the University of Arizona, has agreed to lead these theory lessons. \$500 of the budget will be set aside to provide students with music theory materials and sheet music for their instrument lessons.

Many of the students who participate in the program only practice their instruments during the summer because of a lack of resources to provide for year-round lessons. At this time, TSM does not have the resources to be able to run year-round, but this is definitely a plan for the near future. Because it is not currently a reality, I would like to begin to offer a \$1,500 music scholarship to the most promising student. This student will be voted on by the volunteer teachers collectively, and the scholarship presented at the final recital. To make sure that the scholarship is used only for instrument rental and music lessons, TSM will provide a professional and qualified teacher and a rental instrument which will be paid for directly from the TSM account when the service has been provided. Through this scholarship, the program will be contributing to the local music profession along with following its mission to provide free private music lessons to children from low-income families.

Lastly, in order to create stability for future summers, I have taken steps to obtain 501(c)3 status. Last spring I applied for a pro bono lawyer through Southern Arizona Legal Aid. That same spring we were able to obtain free legal aid. Since then I have been working with the lawyer to file the paperwork necessary. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were created for TSM which allowed the program to obtain nonprofit corporation status from the Arizona Corporation Commission. The IRS Form 1023, which will grant TSM 501(c)3 status when approved, was submitted to the IRS in January.

The Strauss Foundation grant will enable TSM to emerge this summer as a committed program in the Tucson community which will help to promote equality by working to ensure that Tucson's youth are able to experience music education. The Strauss Foundation can help to solidify the program for the future.

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\*I calculated these estimates using the instrument rental prices on MetroGnome Music's website ( [HYPERLINK "http://metrognomemusic.com/MetroGnomeMusic.com/Home.html"](http://metrognomemusic.com/MetroGnomeMusic.com/Home.html) <http://metrognomemusic.com/MetroGnomeMusic.com/Home.html> ) and using \$5 as the cheapest music lesson and \$50 as the most expensive music lesson.

**Strauss Foundation Budget**

**Tucson Summer Music (Tucson, AZ, USA)**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	
\$60	State Farm Insurance
\$150	Fingerprinting/Background Checks
\$22	Business Phone Minutes
\$30	Bank Service Fee
\$75	Administrative (i.e. fliers, posters, programs)
\$500	TSM T-shirts for participants (advertisement for future years)
\$492	Advertising and Fundraising
\$500	Sheet Music
<b>Instrument Expenses</b>	
\$445	Repair for 11 donated instruments
\$600	Instrument Rental
\$600	Three used flutes for program rental
\$600	Three used clarinets for program rental
\$600	Three used violins for program rental
\$250	Two used guitars for program rental
\$300	Two used saxophones for program rental
\$300	Two used trumpets for program rental
\$669	Michoacano Guitarron (Mariachi Instrument) for program rental
\$359	Michoacano Standard Vihuela (Mariachi Instrument) for program rental
\$659	Sevillano Guitarra de Golpe (Mariachi Instrument) for program rental
\$889	Sevillano Mariachi Guitar (Mariachi Instrument) for program rental
<b>Scholarship</b>	
\$1,500	Scholarship for most promising musician
<b>Nonprofit</b>	
\$400	Form 1023 fee for IRS
<b>Total</b>	
<b>\$10,000</b>	