

Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra Education Program Master Class

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants

Asheville Symphony Orchestra

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Application Form

INSTRUCTIONS

As part of the FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants program, Buncombe County requests proposals for community-based projects working toward outcomes in alignment with Strategic Plan focus areas.

Please refer to the Grant Guidelines published on the Strategic Partnership Grants website at buncombecounty.org/grants for complete information about the grant program, including: Purpose; Funding; Eligibility; Timeline; Grant writing workshop; Review process; Awards; and more.

Applications are due by 5:00 on February 14, 2020.

BASIC INFORMATION

BASIC INFORMATION – Before completing the application, please tell us a little about the request.

Project Name*

Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra Education Program Master Class

Strategy*

Recognizing that some projects will use more than one strategy, select the strategy that most closely applies to this project:

- Environmental Stewardship - High quality air, water, farmland and renewable energy for future generations
- Educated & Capable Community - A county where all people thrive and demonstrate resilience throughout their lives
- Vibrant Economy - A robust and sustainable economy that builds on homegrown industries/talent and provides economic mobility for all
- Resident Well-Being - A county where residents are safe, healthy, and engaged in their community

Educated & Capable Community

Funding Request*

How much funding is this project requesting for FY2021?

\$10,000.00

Grant Guidelines*

Have you read and understand the information presented in the FY2021 Grant Guidelines Strategic Partnership Grants?

Click here for the Grant Guidelines.

If no, please contact County staff to request assistance: Rachael Nygaard, (828) 250-6536 or rachael.nygaard@buncombecounty.org.

Yes

Nonprofit Status*

Upload proof of nonprofit status, such as IRS Determination Letter or documentation from the North Carolina Secretary of State. If this documentation is not available, briefly state the reason.

IRS determinatio letter 501 c 3.pdf

Board of Directors*

Upload a current list of your organization’s Board of Directors. If your organization does not have a board of directors, briefly state the reason.

ASO Board roster 19-20.pdf

APPLICATION

APPLICATION QUESTIONS – Responses to these questions will be scored by the grant committee. Each question is worth 10% of the final score.

Organization*

Tell us about your organization. What is your mission? Highlight two or three key facts and accomplishments that best define your organization.

The Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO) operates under the management and direction of the Asheville Symphony which performs and promotes symphonic music for the benefit, enjoyment and education of the people of Western North Carolina. Key facts that define the relationship of the ASYO and the Asheville Symphony and the community are best demonstrated by the commitment the Symphony has to making ASYO a widely available resource to the community by investing in ASYO in generous and forward thinking manners. For example, ASYO recently hired their first full time manager, has increased faculty and performs at Thomas Wolfe auditorium once a year. ASYO is taking concrete steps to address inclusion and diversity-first by doing extensive outreach in public schools, partnering with the Music Works! program at Hall Fletcher and insuring no child is turned away for economic reasons. ASYO has grown from 45 to 180 youth; performs 4 concerts a year; provides extraordinary education through workshops, mentoring, master

classes, retreats and specialized instructions regardless of income. ASYO is a valuable resource to the community and fills an educational void that extends beyond learning music. Studies have shown and we have witnessed that youth who are able to learn, practice, and be involved in classical music program, such as an orchestra, are better students, have better study habits, develop a life long love of music. They also thrive in their communities and demonstrate resiliency because they have learned skills which serve them their entire lives-problem solving, having and achieving goals, working as a member of a team and valuing education and educators. They are also our next generation of music teachers, musicians, music and arts advocates and philanthropists.

Need for the Project*

What is the main issue this project is established to address? What data or qualitative factors/stories are available to show that need?

Lack of music education leads to an achievement gap among students who have access to classical/symphonic experiences and those who do not. The Youth Orchestra education program meets the need for a high-quality, orchestral music education program in Buncombe County that have limited or no resources to deliver music programs. Since 2016 we have experienced an increased demand for the program and ASYO is committed to meeting it. Our vision for the program is demonstrated through the commitment to not refuse any eligible student due to financial need thus giving deserving students potentially life changing experiences and pathways to higher education and the possibility of a musical career. It is a common misconception that youth who participate in youth orchestras come from affluent households. Through its outreach to schools and the community, ASYO staff has learned differently. At every audition there are youth whose parents cannot afford the tuition, the instruments, or attend concerts because they work two or more jobs. These are the students we are seeking to reach. Studies show that youth who are able to participate in and have educational experiences with classical music are better students and have better life long outcomes. They are more apt to be organized around their studies, have better study habits, understand the importance of team work, and go on to school after high school. They will also be the next generation of music lovers and music advocates, teachers, and music leaders. Youth who are able to play in an orchestra must have discipline, the ability to prioritize, think critically, and work as cohesive team members-all of these attributes make for great citizens, as community members, workers, parents and educators. The 2019 graduating class of the ASYO had 100% of graduating seniors go on to institutions of higher-learning.<https://www.nammfoundation.org/articles/2014-06-09/how-children-benefit-music-education-schools>

Project*

Explain the project and how it will work. Include the overall purpose and any models or evidence-based practices that will be included. What specific activities and milestones are included in the project plan?

The project is an embedded activity within the structure of the ASYO- a master class, which we are only able to offer with community support. A baseline of educational opportunities include concerts in various halls in Asheville, retreats, workshops, coaching, and competitions in addition to rehearsals and occur throughout the season. Tuition covers the cost of all of the retreats and workshops. Milestones include acceptance into competitions and various music camps; winning competitions, scholarships and invitations to prestigious music education programs, ASYO seniors being accepted into colleges; very low attrition and high attendance at ASYO concerts. ASYO follows the best practices for youth orchestra management established by the League of American Orchestras-a classical music organization that provides opportunities for education and networking for classical music professionals and board members. It has recently conducted a mid-year conference focused on youth orchestras that covered such topics as inclusion, educational standards, and recruiting and retaining staff. The new ASYO General Manager came back inspired by the conference and has plans to offer a once in a lifetime Master Class to any Buncombe County youth who would like to participate. The class conducted by the American Brass Quintet

<https://www.americanbrassquintet.org/index> and will follow the model of a class held in 2017 in which youth from across the county participated. The day was filled with opportunities for coaching, mentoring, and a master class conducted by world class musicians. The finale was a concert held at Thomas Wolfe auditorium and featured all of the youth who had participated in the master class and coaching. A total of 150 youth participated in this once in a lifetime experience, with little to no costs to them. We would like to replicate this model of education in 2021.

People Served*

How many people will be served by this project? Describe the people served, including demographics such as geography, income, race & ethnicity, age, etc.

Currently, ASYO encompasses four orchestras and two ensembles involving 180 students between the ages of 9 and 18 who reflect the demographics of Buncombe County and Asheville City schools. Given recent program growth, staff anticipates that this number will increase in the coming years. ASYO students come from: 20% Asheville City Schools 53% Buncombe County Schools 7% Charter Schools; 5% Homeschool, 15% Private School. Demographics of participants are 49% male 51% female, 33% of the youth who participate receive reduced tuition or full scholarships which means they come from schools with 51% or higher free or reduced school lunches.

Results*

What results do you hope to achieve with this project? Be specific about how much impact the project will have in line with Commissioner focus areas.

With the increasing ability to touch as many young people as possible, we will contribute to the educational landscape in Buncombe County by setting our young people on a path of valuing and seeking educational experiences. Lack of music education leads to an achievement gap among students who have access to classical/symphonic experiences and those who do not. ASYO education program meets the need for a high-quality, orchestral music education program for young people attending schools that have limited or no resources to deliver music programs. Our vision for the program is demonstrated through the commitment to not refuse any eligible student due to financial need thus giving deserving students potentially life changing experiences and pathways to higher education. It is a common misconception youth who participate in youth orchestras come from affluent households. At every audition there are youth whose parents cannot afford the tuition, the instruments, or attend concerts because they work two or more jobs. These are the students we are seeking to reach. Studies show that youth who are able to participate in and have educational experiences with classical music are better students and have better life long outcomes. They are more apt to be organized around their studies, have better study habits, understand the importance of team work, and go on to school after high school. They will also be the next generation of music lovers and music advocates, teachers, and music leaders. Youth who are able to play in an orchestra must have discipline, the ability to prioritize, think critically, and work as cohesive team members—all of these attributes make for great citizens, as community members, workers, parents and educators. The 2019 graduating class of the ASYO had 100% of graduating seniors go on to institutions of higher.

Evaluation*

How will you know you have succeeded? Explain the project evaluation process, including specific measures that will be tracked.

Success is: 100% of ASYO's graduates are accepted into schools after high school, if they so choose and/or prepared for the real world in music. In this regard ASYO staff leads weekly coaching sessions to ensure measurable musical growth in technical skill and musical knowledge. Staff also documents the practice of

“seating auditions” and “part checks” in order to assess each student’s individual level of preparation and development. Success is also noted by an increased number of students who have auditioned and been accepted to prestigious camps and concerts. In 2019 the Brevard Music Center awarded five “Brevard Scholar Awards” to our students and importantly, success is seeing an increase in diversity among ASYO participants that increasingly reflect the community we live in. ASYO staff document progress toward goal achievement and outcomes in two ways: 1) through regular staff meetings to review program plans, student progress, and make adjustments where needed, and 2) through objective data gathered by measuring the outcomes listed above.

Collaboration*

List any formal and/or supportive partners. Describe their roles in the project. How will they make it stronger?

We work extensively with Asheville High School, UNC-A, and Mars Hill University. All three of these programs share their equipment with us to run rehearsals. The equipment includes, chairs, stands, and percussion equipment. We have begun an internship with UNC-A students whose duties include site management and string bowings. ASYO’s goal is to engage UNC-A interns in teaching students. We also work with Central United Methodist Church who allows us to use their space for concerts and workshops helping serve our educational needs by providing a safe space and other needed resources. It is crucial we have these strategic partners. We need their expertise, cost containment resources and advocacy to deliver the very best programs we can.

Budget*

Download a copy of the budget form [HERE](#). Complete the form, and upload it using the button below.

Explain how grant funds will be used, specifically what type of expenses will be covered by County funds. Describe other sources of revenue, including type of funding, source, restrictions and status.

BC SFP Budget form 20 21.pdf

The grant funds will be used to bring a once-in-a-lifetime musical educational experience to the youth of Buncombe County. In March of 2021 we will once again present Asheville Amadeus a music festival celebrating the music and activities Mozart would have loved. During the 10 days of musical and performance offerings we are offering a master class for any Buncombe County youth who qualify. Qualification is determined by their level of expertise and more importantly their willingness to learn. In 2021 the Masterclass and related performances will be conducted by the highly esteemed, world class American Brass Quintet. The funds from the Strategic Partnership grant will help us bring this group, and their commitment, to Asheville.

Other County Funding*

List all other Buncombe County funding that is provided to your organization. For each item, list the project being funded, amount of funding, source (grant, departmental contract, etc.) and whether funding is to be renewed for FY2021.

We currently receive no county funding.

Sustainability*

How will the project continue to succeed after the funding of the grant? Explain your plan for making this an ongoing effort.

Our timeline is based on a fiscal year July 1st to June 30th. The funding for this program comes from three sources: revenues and contributed income and grants. Revenues are generated by tuition and concert ticket which is collected before the program officially begins in August. ASYO also receives revenue from concert tickets-there are four concerts per year. Funds from tuition and concerts provide 53% of ASYO's income. Throughout the year there are strategic fundraising efforts to help reach fundraising goals. Contributions from individuals are responsible for 41% of ASYO's budget. Individuals are solicited through direct mail appeals, fundraisers utilizing social media, special events, and direct appeals to specific donors. The remaining 6% of income needs are fulfilled by grants.

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

OPTIONAL INFORMATION – This information will not impact grant scoring but will be helpful to the committee.

Partial Funding

If the project were to be offered a grant for partial funding, what factors would need to be considered?

Any funds received will be applied towards bringing the master class to youth and related educational experiences to Asheville.

Resource Support

Beyond this grant request, how can Buncombe County support your organization with this project and in strengthening your work?

It would be forward thinking and have a major, long term impact if Buncombe County formally recognized the value of music education and actively promotes its inclusion in Buncombe County schools curriculum, There is a big disconnect of the musicality of our region and the ability of families to afford formal musical training. Having a entry way or first step path in the schools would be a great first step in addressing this gap.

Other

Is there anything else that you want the committee to know?

This application might be a big confusing. As stated earlier, it is a program within a program within a program. ASYO is a fully contained program of classical music education and performance for youth ages 8 to 18.- overseen by the Asheville Symphony (or formally the Asheville Symphony Society, Inc) We are seeking funding for a master class, occurring as an extension of the Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra that will reach youth who are residents of Buncombe County who do not have to be members of the Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra to participate.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- IRS determinatio letter 501 c 3.pdf
- ASO Board roster 19-20.pdf
- BC SFP Budget form 20 21.pdf

Internal Revenue Service

Date: March 19, 2004

Asheville Symphony Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 2852
Asheville, NC 28802-2852

Department of the Treasury
P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Person to Contact:
Tracy Garrigus #31-07307
Customer Service Representative
Toll Free Telephone Number:
8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST
877-829-5500
Fax Number:
513-263-3756
Federal Identification Number:
56-6080772

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to your request of March 19, 2004, regarding your organization's tax-exempt status.

In May 1963 we issued a determination letter that recognized your organization as exempt from federal income tax. Our records indicate that your organization is currently exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Based on information subsequently submitted, we classified your organization as one that is not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because it is an organization described in sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

This classification was based on the assumption that your organization's operations would continue as stated in the application. If your organization's sources of support, or its character, method of operations, or purposes have changed, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on the exempt status and foundation status of your organization.

Your organization is required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, only if its gross receipts each year are normally more than \$25,000. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the organization's annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$20 a day, up to a maximum of \$10,000, when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay.

All exempt organizations (unless specifically excluded) are liable for taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) on remuneration of \$100 or more paid to each employee during a calendar year. Your organization is not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Organizations that are not private foundations are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, these organizations are not automatically exempt from other federal excise taxes.

Donors may deduct contributions to your organization as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to your organization or for its use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Asheville Symphony Society, Inc.
56-6060772

Your organization is not required to file federal income tax returns unless it is subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If your organization is subject to this tax, it must file an income tax return on the Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. In this letter, we are not determining whether any of your organization's present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

Section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code requires you to make your organization's annual return available for public inspection without charge for three years after the due date of the return. The law also requires organizations that received recognition of exemption on July 15, 1987, or later, to make available for public inspection a copy of the exemption application, any supporting documents and the exemption letter to any individual who requests such documents in person or in writing. Organizations that received recognition of exemption before July 15, 1987, and had a copy of their exemption application on July 15, 1987, are also required to make available for public inspection a copy of the exemption application, any supporting documents and the exemption letter to any individual who requests such documents in person or in writing. For additional information on disclosure requirements, please refer to Internal Revenue Bulletin 1999 - 17.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your organization's exempt status and foundation status, you should keep it with the organization's permanent records.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

This letter affirms your organization's exempt status.

Sincerely,



Janna K. Skufca, Director, TE/GE
Customer Account Services

**Asheville Symphony 2019-2020 Board
of Directors**

John (Jack) R. Anderson	Asheville, NC 28804
Michael Andry	Asheville, NC 28801
Thomas (Tom) C. Bolton	Asheville, NC 28803
Timothy (Tim) Butts	Arden, NC 28704
Nancy Cable	Asheville, NC 28804
Eugene S. Casey	Weaverville, NC 28787
John P. Cuellar, III MD	Arden, NC 28704
George Dambach	Asheville, NC 28804
John Donahoe	Asheville, NC 28804
Harry Durity	Asheville, NC 28803
Nancy Edgerton	Asheville, NC 28804
Bolling Farmer	Asheville, NC 28804
Cary Findlay	Arden, NC 28704
William (Bill) Gettys	Weaverville, NC 28787
Dawn Henderson Grohs	Asheville, NC 28803
William (Bill) G. Hunt, Jr,	Asheville, NC 28803
Mary Kirby	Fairview, NC 28730
Gerald (Gerry) C. Kitch	Asheville, NC 28804
Doris Phillips Loomis	Asheville, NC 28803
Barbra Love	Asheville, NC 28803
Kathleen Mainardi	Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Carol McCollum	Asheville, NC 28804
Mary Sczudlo	Fletcher, NC 28732
Michael Selverne	Asheville, NC 28806
Irene Stoll	Asheville, NC 28804
Jim Thompson	Asheville, NC 28801
Sandra Tompkins	Weaverville, NC 28787
G. Edward (Ed) Towson, II	Asheville, NC 28804
Sarah Van Gunten	Asheville, NC 28804
Olivia Zahler	Asheville, NC 28804
David Whitehill	Asheville, NC 28806

Strategic Partnership Grants Proposed FY2021 Project Budget (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

Organization Name:	Asheville Symphony Society, Inc
Project Name:	Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra Education Programe
Grant Amount Requested:	10,000

FY2021 Proposed Project Revenue	Amount	Committed or Pending?
Proposed Buncombe County Strategic Partnerships Grant	\$ 10,000	Pending
Tuition	\$ 73,000	Committed
Ticket Sales	\$ 30,000	Committed
		Pending
Individual contributions	\$ 55,000	Committed
Advertising	\$ 5,000	Committed
Total	\$ 173,000	

FY2021 Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Grant	Other Funds	Total	Notes
Personnel		\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	Full time ASYO manager, plus 3 ASYO conductors and 2 faculty members
Training		\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	Work shops for the youth and retreat
Travel			\$ -	
Supplies / Materials		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
Meetings (Food, Interpreting, Child Care, etc.)		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Equipment / Furniture			\$ -	
Printing / Marketing		\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	
Licensing / Memberships / Dues / Subscriptions		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
Client Support		\$ -	\$ -	
Contracts			\$ -	
Professional Services (Legal, Accounting, etc.)			\$ -	
Insurance and Bonds			\$ -	
Building Maintenance (Rent, Utilities, Repairs, etc.)		\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	
Room Rentals		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
Master Class		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
Coaching		\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	
			\$ -	
Total			\$ 173,000	

Overall Organization Budget	Amount	Notes
FY2019 Actual Year-End Revenue	\$ 2,160,000	
FY2019 Actual Year-End Expenses	\$ 2,090,000	
FY2020 Adopted Budget Amount	\$ 1,888,000	
FY2021 Proposed Budget Amount	\$ 2,200,000	