

Artists in Maine Communities

Lubec Landmarks Application Narrative

1. Describe your project.

Lubec Landmarks, a historic preservation organization, is requesting support from the Maine Arts Commission/Artists in Maine Communities in partnership with SummerKeys, an adult music school also in Lubec, for a new collaborative project with the Passamaquoddy Bay Symphony Orchestra. By combining the resources of both arts organizations, this project will provide otherwise unavailable musical experiences for students, townspeople and the wider Washington County community that will include important learning opportunities, three free classical music concerts for the public, and an expansion of the orchestra's audience. Summer Keys which was founded in 1992 by Bruce Potterton, now attracts 325 students each year (50% are returns) from all over the state, the country and overseas who take intensive instrumental instruction taught by a professional music faculty of 25. The school has been central in attracting economic opportunities to an area that is considered high poverty. The Passamaquoddy Bay Symphony Orchestra, established in 2007, was founded and is conducted by Trond Saeverud, first violinist and concert master of the Bangor Symphony, and consists of 30 musicians who perform each year in Washington County. The pilot for this collaboration took place in the summer of 2010 and consisted of three "orchestra weekends" each proceeded by rehearsals for participating students with the orchestra, and culminated in performances for the public on Sunday afternoons. Response was extremely positive among SK students who learned new symphonic ensemble skills and by enthusiastic people of all ages who crowded into the Lubec Consolidated School to hear Beethoven, Sibelius, and Faure --right in their own town! For the summer of 2011, we want to refine and expand the program to include an "orchestra week" before the second orchestra weekend where students have in-depth time for preparation, coaching, mini-rehearsals with orchestra members, and the addition of an informational/educational component for the audience with materials about each concert. We are in need of support for fees to the conductor and musicians, rental of space at the town's school and the maintenance of a piano there, and related costs and hope that the Maine Arts Commission can help us support and sustain this project.

2. What are your goals and anticipated outcomes? Provide a timeline.

The collaboration we have described for the summer of 2011 would continue the overarching goals of SummerKeys, which are to provide musical programs based on positive learning and experience, and an expanded understanding of music, without regard for a participant's level of ability or previous experience; i.e., no one will be turned away from this program (conductor Trond Saeverud has already seen fit to slightly alter a student's orchestral part to their comfort level) in accordance with SK's governing criterion, "no audition, no requirements". This application for an Artists in Maine Communities grant, will further these goals by establishing a successful collaboration with the PBSO that provides unique musical experiences through the resources of a symphony orchestra for both SK students and the entire Lubec community. We also hope that this project can become a model to develop future partnerships with other Maine arts organizations.

Our timeline is:

May- June	Planning - SK, PBSO, LL
June	Scheduling, preparation of materials and facility- SK, PBSO
July 30-31	Orchestra Weekend 1.
July 31	Public Concert of the Passamaquoddy Symphony Orchestra, 3-5pm
August 1-5	Orchestra Week

August 6-7	Orchestra Weekend 2.
August 7	Public Concert of the Passamaquoddy Symphony Orchestra, 3-5pm
August 13-14	Orchestra Weekend 3.
August 14	Public Concert of the Passamaquoddy Symphony Orchestra, 3-5pm
July-August	Evaluation and documentation done after Orchestra Weekend 1. 2. and 3. after Orchestra Week, and after each public concert
September	Collection of evaluations and documentation
October	Analysis of evaluations.
Nov - May	Planning by SK and PBSY for Year II collaboration.

3. Describe how the project partners were involved in the planning for this initiative. What will their roles be in implementing the project?

Lubec Landmarks and SummerKeys are well acquainted, greatly appreciate one another's efforts in bringing cultural improvements to the town, and have worked together informally for many years. SummerKeys Director Bruce Potterton and PBSO Conductor Trond Saeverud become acquainted in 2002 when Trond became a teacher of violin and a music coach at the school. They began to discuss the possibility of collaboration in 2009 along with the PBSO board president Helen Swallow which was followed by the pilot in July and August of 2010. Planning was on going with partners meeting regularly before and during the pilot to organize the program, deal with its many details, and recognize difficulties. SummerKeys did outreach registered students, organized schedules and did administrative support. PBSO was involved in the search for space, negotiated with the Lubec Consolidated School, selected the music, organized and led rehearsals, and worked with students. SK and PBSO continued to meet after the pilot to look at the successes, problems and possibilities, and developed the current project plan for 2011 which will include an "orchestra week" and a new educational component for the public at the concerts. The partners also realized that the project needs additional funding to sustain it and developed this proposal which is our first submission to the Maine Arts Commission.

4. List the Maine artists involved.

Trond Saeverud, the founder and conductor of the Passamaquoddy Bay Symphony Orchestra, lives in Robbinston and has performed as a soloist with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London and the Orchestra of St. Luke's in NYC. In addition to being first violinist and concert master with the Bangor Symphony, he is first violin in the Nor'easter String Quartet, artistic director of the Harald Saeverud Chamber Music Program and has recorded on Simax, Grappa and BIS labels. He recently received the Guptil Award which recognizes artists who spotlight Washington County.

Charles Nason, the principal bassist, is a retired music teacher in the schools of Washington County. He lives in Houlton and also plays in the Fredericton NB Symphony.

George McBride, a cellist who lives in Machias, had been an engineer and as a member of the board of the orchestra, is responsible for all the scheduling and arrangement of venues for rehearsal sand concerts.

Mary Sossong, the principal 2nd violin who is also a fiddler, is an elementary school teacher at the Indian Township School in Princeton. She also plays for dances, parties and "jams" all over the state, and teaches at Fiddle Camp.

Helen Swallow, the 2nd clarinet and bass clarinet, has played through her school years and is a founding member and the board president of the PBSO. She is a librarian and a retired nurse-midwife.

Lauren Simpson, the 2nd violin is also an actress, singer and iron-woman competitor. Living in Robbinston, she works in Calais as a psychology counselor and has been in the orchestra since the first rehearsal.

Mary Jo Carlsen, who plays the violin and the viola, lives in Waterville and performs with the Portland Symphony, the Bangor Symphony, the Portland Ballet and many Maine chamber groups. She taught at Colby College for many years and records with Capstrow and Telarc Records.

Gene Nichols lives in Machiasport and is a music professor at the University of Maine in Machias. He is a composer who plays a variety of traditional and non-traditional instruments and is active in many community music projects.

Lynn Brubaker is a violinist, lives in Machiasport and is a school music teacher.

Other accomplished and dedicated musicians in the PBSO include: *Ray Phillips, Rosa Bragdan, Doug and Davie Gailler and the Schuth Family-- Bruce, Alice, Sam, Henry and Frank.*

5. Describe what community means in the context of this proposal. Community of locale?

Community of common interest? Other?

This proposal is concerned with providing otherwise unavailable classical music experiences to the town of Lubec and the wider Washington county community through the talents of Maine musicians. It is also concerned with extending musical knowledge and context within a community of learners that have been nurtured by SummerKeys who, in turn, view Lubec as a locale of vitality, renewal and return.

6. Document the benefits for the community, whether you are defining your community as your town, a school district, an artist collaborative, etc. Does this project fit a larger community vision and if so, how?

Lubec Landmarks, a non-profit organization of volunteers established in 1995, has restored and maintains the McCurdy Smokehouse complex which preserves the town's maritime and fishing heritage through guided tours, a gallery and the beautification of the site. Over the past 19 years, SummerKeys has also had an extremely positive effect on the economy, energy and cultural life of Lubec which has been struggling with the loss of the herring industry which was its main source of employment. SK has brought a steady stream of 325 people into the town each year who live in local bed and breakfasts, inns, rent houses, eat in local restaurants, use the supermarket and shops, and visit local sites. Second homes in Lubec have been purchased by 25 people who became acquainted with the area as SummerKeys students, and there has been recent construction of new restaurants, shops and other businesses in the town along with many visual artists settling in the area. The school has also begun to add the visual arts to its offerings. SummerKeys regularly rents space for lessons, classes and events from townspeople and businesses, employs two local residents year round and another eight seasonally, and gives music scholarships to five local young people and adults each year. Eleven concerts of classical music are presented by SK for the public free of charge each Wednesday evening from late June through Labor Day each of which is attended by 170 people for a total of about 1,870 people each summer. These programs have exposed people of all ages and walks of life to fine classical music that has expanded their horizons and education, and given them a great deal of pleasure. The collaboration between SummerKeys and the PBSO would be an important expansion of the school's art educational efforts that lend vitality and cultural opportunities to the town and the historic revitalization projects of Lubec Landmarks.

7. Describe a plan for evaluating the Project.

We would use a number of tools to evaluate this collaborative project including: questionnaires for students and orchestra members, and small group conversations after each orchestra session with selected students and orchestra members led by the SummerKeys Director and the PBSO Director. We also plan to continue to count audience members, document the performances with photographs and video, and conduct video interviews with a selection of audience members of different ages and walks of life. We will also keep notes from the planning meetings between SK and PBSO and retain the materials from the rehearsals and performances as well as the educational material distributed to the audience. All of the information above will be collected, collated and reviewed for future planning.