

# St. John's Musicians Foundation, proposed by Andrew Carter, Tina Grubbe, Debra Spencer

Proposers: Andrew Carter, Tina Grubbe, Debra Spencer

Title: St. John's Musicians Foundation

## 1. How does the proposed project align with and support our parish mission?

We propose to create a non-profit collective music foundation to provide opportunities for performance, education, and composition to local musicians of all levels of proficiency and all genres, and to their audiences. Concerts, classes, talks, and demonstrations would invite participation by our parishioners, our neighbors, and the larger community, as musicians and listeners, giving our parish a chance to mingle with and get to know people who do not usually attend our worship or outreach projects. It's our hope that sacred music will attract people to our congregation and communicate Jesus' love. Music reaches us in ways that other forms of communication and outreach cannot. It feeds the soul, encourages spiritual development, and contributes to the overall mental health of both musicians and audience. Also, in forming a collective, we hope to encourage the sort of asset-based community development that fits very well with our parish mission and values.

There are a number of church-supported concert series, and there is Community Music School which supplies donated instruments to students, has summer camps for children, teenagers, and adults, and which disseminates a list of music teachers in the county. But we feel that a concert series at St. John's, which could expand to other areas of support for musicians, would only add to the county's musical culture, as well as helping to put St. John's on the map as a concert venue and supporter of musicians.

## 2. How will the project engage the congregation and the larger community?

As audience members, as hospitality participants, and as musicians, the congregation would have different ways to engage with members of the neighborhood, the larger community, and each other. A group of parishioners could canvas the neighborhood to ask about musicians who might want to participate. Eventually, we envision having a group of musicians from the parish and the community who would act as a board of advisors to coordinate concerts, classes, and other events. Musicians who perform in a concert could be invited to provide music during a worship service.

## 3. Describe the scope and purpose of the project.

The scope of this foundation would be wide-reaching. The hope would be to benefit participating local musicians of all levels. By providing them with performance space, rehearsal space, commissions, pay for performances, publicity, or even instruments, the foundation could serve in a pastoral role to the community of Santa Cruz County musicians.

We propose to begin with concerts featuring local musicians, varying the kind of music and the level of proficiency of the musicians, including concerts by and for children and music students, as well as professional organists, vocalists, and instrumentalists, playing any kind of music: classical, bluegrass, folk, electronic, Celtic, hip-hop, new music compositions. We'd like to have

an organ concert once a quarter, to introduce the community to our marvelous instrument. These concerts would be held in the sanctuary, with receptions to follow. However, a concert could be held in front of the Helpful Shop, another could be organized by the youth from the ACYP, another could involve our parish children; there are many possibilities. We would invite people to perform, publicize, coordinate, provide food, set-up, and clean-up, and do all other necessary tasks related to the concerts.

Once we have established St. John's as a concert venue, we would go on to develop the other aspects of the collective--student recitals at low cost for teachers, educational talks, master classes, seminars, composer commissions, scholarships for music lessons, a fund for maintenance of our vintage organ--allowing the full scope of the collective and its ministries to unfurl. We see this as a far-reaching, ongoing endeavor which would extend our footprint as a caring and open-minded resource for musicians and audiences.

4. How much time will it take to prepare and initiate the project?

We estimate that it would take 2-3 months to contact and invite musicians or bands, set dates, and begin publicizing the first concert, which we plan to present during Advent or Christmas. There would be ample opportunity for parish involvement on many levels. Concerts are manageable entities, each concert an individual endeavor, so that no performer or volunteer would be committed to more time and energy than they could give. From that beginning, we will build the other services we imagine for the collective foundation.

5. What are primary goals of the project and how will they be measurable?

Our goals are

- to present enjoyable musical concerts of a variety of ages, traditions, eras, styles, and instrumentation, to a varied audience of ages, backgrounds, neighborhoods, and communities, performed by musicians at a variety of proficiency levels
- to involve as many parishioners as possible, as musicians, audience, organizers, and helpers
- to involve as many local people as possible as musicians, composers, publicists, giving people an opportunity to share their gifts
- to provide community music education through pre-concert talks, seminars, instrument demonstrations, etc.
- to promote opportunities for conversation, networking, evangelizing, and just getting to know those around us in our neighborhood and communities, with an eye to implementing asset-based development
- to discover in what ways people around us might need--or might join us in providing--food, clothes, shelter, and other necessities to those who need them
- to share our outreach services with the community

These goals would be measured by

- How much in donation is offered at each concert
- How many people attend each one

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- How many people volunteer to be involved in putting on the concert
- What sort of community support projects emerge from contact with people at concerts

6. What are the types of costs and expenses that will occur with this project?

Eventually, we imagine the foundation would like to:

- pay professional musicians to take part in concerts (at scale)
- offer honoraria to semi-professional and amateur musicians
- offer commissions to local composers
- give scholarships for music lessons
- pay for publicity, whether hard copy or electronic

Also:

- the parish might incur extra utilities, instrument maintenance, and security expenses.

We imagine that the initial cost of a first concert series would be \$5,000 to \$7,000, depending on the caliber of the invited musicians, the added expense to the parish for utilities, and possible upkeep of the piano and organ. Our idea is to expand gradually to other areas (commissioning composers, giving classes and lectures, providing instruments, etc.) once a concert series is established. We hope that we could find ways of generating income (ticket sales, donations, etc.) that we could then use to expand further.

7. Are there any feasibility, licensing or personnel issues that may arise with this project?

If we sold tickets, we might need to pay an entertainment tax. If we accept donations, that could be avoided. (The donations accepted could be used to fund other outreach programs; we might advertise each concert as a benefit for a specific organization.) We might need to pay for an extra piano tuning. We might need to pay scale to those musicians who belong to the Musicians Union. Otherwise, we don't foresee that any licenses would be needed. If we invite parishioners to volunteer, they would need no special certification.

We commit to actively promote and work on this project.

Signed:

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Signed:

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