

9-28-2007

The Marriage of Figaro

School of Performing Arts

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CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES
GRANT APPLICATION

PROVIDE 12 (TWELVE) COPIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL.
PLEASE PLACE A COPY OF THIS COVER SHEET ON TOP OF EACH COPY

I. Applicant/Organization: School of Performing Arts
II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: Marcia Douglas b. Title: Chair – Theatre/Dance c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): Class of 1944 Hall, 581-1846 Marcia.douglas@umit.maine.edu
III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s): <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Marriage of Figaro - Opera</i></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; color: blue;">\$ 7500</p>
IV. Budget Proposal Form must be attached.
Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of reports for any previous grant awards, including final budget and attendance figures.
Signature of responsible organization officer/date: <u>Marcia Douglas</u> <u>9/28/07</u> SIGNATURE DATE

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE
C/O WANDA MADDEN-CARR
PROVOST'S OFFICE
201 ALUMNI HALL, CAMPUS

GRANT PROPOSAL- CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Marriage of Figaro

February 2008

For the first time in over ten years, the School of Performing Arts will present an opera to audiences at Hauck Auditorium. *The Marriage of Figaro*, considered to be one of Mozart's most emotionally stirring operas, will tap the talents of music, theatre and dance students and faculty throughout the School of Performing Arts, and be the springboard for discussions in courses on history, philosophy, sociology, women's studies, political science and French literature.

The opera will be brought directly to students through UMaine's "Class Book" project, which was created to unite the UMaine campus in a common intellectual pursuit. Typically the Class Book project is focused on a particular book that may be discussed in a number of courses, but this year, the topic will be the opera, which we will bring to life for students. This will be the first "Class Opera" to be brought to any university campus, which may bring national publicity to our project.

"Productions like this have the potential to bring everyone – students, faculty and departments – together," says Professor of Theatre Tom Mikotowicz, director of *Figaro*. "As a result the university environment will be enhanced."

Ludlow Hallman, who will serve as musical director and lead the University Orchestra for the shows, said "*Figaro* has said something to every generation since it was written. It's a very valuable experience for students to grapple with a giant like this."

Mikotowicz agrees, noting that he selects plays for UMaine students that challenge and educate, invite related research, further knowledge of human development and pertain to today's societal issues. *Figaro* fulfills those criteria, he says, and the music is splendid. "We picked *Figaro* because it is a little more comic and accessible, but more importantly, it contains serious philosophy that led to the French Revolution. It's a play that speaks beyond its own time period," Mikotowicz says. "Beaumarchais was a champion of the lower classes. And today, we're living in a time when the gap between rich and poor has never been so wide.

Timing is right for this production. Maine Center for the Arts is under construction, so audiences will be looking for other performances to attend. We plan to tap into the MCA mailing list to inform potential audience members about the opera. *Figaro* is a natural to attract a great deal of free publicity in addition to the planned advertising campaign.

The production will involve some inventive double casting due to intense vocal demands, leading to some serious costume needs. Although costumes will be rented to keep costs down, we estimate that we will need to spend \$850 on shoes alone (\$30/pair), plus another \$750 on wigs. Professional set and lighting designers who have experience with operas have been hired to materialize Mikotowicz's vision for this production. "It's always a challenge to sell an opera because of ideas that it is staid and static. The truth is, opera is becoming popular again," Mikotowicz says.

"Success will be measured in the ripple effects," says Marrs. "Real success will be when a UMaine graduate five years down the line goes to an opera and has a deeper appreciation of what's going on as a result of our class opera efforts."

We are thrilled to be creating an authentic production, with the full fanfare of period costumes, lush scenic design, and UMaine's most talented actors and musicians. The sights and sounds will fill the air with spectacle for audience members from the campus, the community and beyond.

Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Fund Budget Proposal Form

Applicant/Organization: School of Performing Arts
 Responsible Officer: Marcia Douglas, Chair – Theatre/Dance
 Event Title: *Marriage of Figaro* - Opera
 Event Date: Feb. 15-25, 2008

Total Program Budget:	\$39,342
Amount Committed by Applicant Organization:	500
Total Amount Requested from Other Funding Sources:	23,342
Please List Sources & Amounts below:	
Patrons of the Arts	3,650
College of LAS	11,425
1934 grant proposal	8,267
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Amount Requested from CA/DLS Committee:	7,500*
Revenues, if any, expected (fees, ticket sales):	8,000

Budget Breakdown of Expenses and funds to be used:	CADLS	Other
Honoraria/Services (explain below)	\$ _____	\$11,425
Guest designers – pd. By College of LAS		
Accompanist		2,000
Musician fees if needed		1,600
Adjudicator fee		200
Photographer		100
Travel	\$ _____	\$ _____

Lodging/Meals	\$ _____	\$ _____
Advertising	\$ _____	\$2,075
Printing	\$ _____	\$1,922
Supplies and Materials	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other (must specify below)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Production expenses: Costumes	\$4,000	5,360
Wigs/Makeup	\$1,000	
Lumber/Materials	\$2,500	1,500
Lights/props/sound		3,500
Music Scores		750
Instrumentation		875
Reception/strike		175
Mailing expense		360
Total Expenses from CA/DLS funds:	\$ 7,500*	
Total Expenses from other funds:		\$31,842
(These two totals should equal the “Total Program Budget” listed above)		

GRANT SUMMARY- CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Marriage of Figaro

February 2008

Theatre, music and dance students came together on the Hauck Auditorium stage in a full display of cohesiveness and talent in a performance of *The Marriage of Figaro*. A full opera had not been performed by UMaine students in over ten years, so the timing was right for the return of the art form.

The opera was brought directly to students of many disciplines on campus through UMaine's "Class Book" project, which was created to unite the UMaine campus in a common intellectual pursuit. Typically the Class Book project is focused on a particular book that may be discussed in a number of courses, but this year, the topic was the opera, which we brought to life for students. *Figaro* served as a springboard for discussions in courses on history, philosophy, sociology, women's studies, political science and French literature.

With Maine Center for the Arts under construction, audiences have been seeking other performances to attend, so the opera was an attractive option. We tapped into the MCA mailing list to obtain a database of potential audience members to send a postcard to inform them about the opera. *Figaro* attracted a great deal of free publicity in addition to the advertising campaign.

In a creative and voice-saving measure, the production involved some inventive double casting, leading to some serious costume needs. Costumes were rented to keep costs down, but we still needed to purchase a significant number of shoes and wigs. Professional set and lighting designers who have experience with operas were hired to materialize Mikotowicz's vision for this production.

We were thrilled to create an authentic production, with the full fanfare of period costumes, lush, yet post-modern scenic design, and UMaine's most talented actors and musicians. The sights and sounds filled the air with spectacle for audience members from the campus, the community and beyond.

Figaro was seen by 1654 people, 687 of which were students.