

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Good Company: A Vocal Ensemble

Your Project Title: A Weekend with Composer Joan Szymko

Your Project Summary: In November 2019, Good Company: a Vocal Ensemble (GC) will present a free Master Class & spring concert with acclaimed choral composer, Joan Szymko. On November 9, Ms. Szymko will lead a free & open Master Class on choral singing techniques. On November 10, GC's 30 members will present a free concert featuring Ms. Szymko guest conducting several of her pieces. Young singers from local schools & colleges will be invited to join us for both events.

Final Score: Somewhat. Overall, the panel felt that the applicant provided some evidence throughout the application that the funding criteria were met.

CAC Grant Amount: \$4,000

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convened an online panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who evaluated and scored eligible applications.

Panelists scored each application based on the Funding Criteria—Public Benefit, Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy and Organizational Capacity—with an emphasis on Public Benefit. For more details regarding the panel process and full panelist bios, please review the [Panel Guide](#).



Rosalyn Escobar
(Los Angeles, CA)



Trey Hartt
(Richmond, VA)



Ashe Helm-Hernández
(Atlanta, GA)



Alice Anne Dolbin
(Philadelphia, PA)



Brett Swinney
(Chicago, IL)

Below you will find each panelist's score and comment on your application in response to the question: **With an emphasis on public benefit, does the applicant demonstrate evidence that it meets CAC's three funding criteria?**

Note: Panelist scores and comments are presented in no particular order.

Panelist 1

Score: Yes

Comment: Good Company does meet the funding criteria. They are offering opportunities for residents of Cuyahoga County a chance to experience and perform with a chorus, some traveling long distances to participate, which demonstrates their public benefit. They also seem willing to grow and adapt to attract a younger audience, though it's worth mentioning that their outreach plan for the master class could be stronger and more specific. Artistic staff has the experience to lead and seems to be bringing fresh ideas to the group. The organizational management could grow by moving away from an all-volunteer organization to hiring perinate staff. It's good to see that core artist do get some compensation for their work.

Panelist 2

Score: Somewhat

Comment: The project somewhat meets the funding criteria. The barrier I foresee is a college student contributing money on a regular basis, although it's a low fee, some college students may find this commitment hard and I find this barrier to be a lack of organizational capacity. For such a specific weekend event, they have an ambitious number of participants that seem to range over an impressive rage of ages. It's clear that aligning themselves with the academic calendars in order to provide and opportunity for young adults who otherwise may not be able to attend, which is evidence of public benefit. The intensity of a master class seems like it would provide valuable and enriched cultural engagement, specifically since there will be regular, weekly rehearsals.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment:

The project does meet the funding criteria. The project has for the last four years been very successful, with GC's 23-year history in the community providing choral music which is evidence of excellent public benefit. The applicant presents a strong proposal, along with the organizational capacity to complete a successful program with leadership of the music director, In-kind volunteer hours and funds from fundraising.

Panelist 4

Score: Somewhat

Comment: This project somewhat meets the funding criteria. It appears to be a delightful project that is surround by an accomplished musician. However, the deliverables seem to vague and it doesn't appear clear how progress will be tracked. Which resulted in weak evidence of organizational capacity. I would recommend more reflection on the organization and program to ensure fresh programming.

Panelist 5

Score: Yes

Comment: This project does meet the funding criteria. Artistic and cultural vibrancy is strong due to the applicant thinking differently about their programing and engagement. It is a smart goal to aim to increase participation of young choristers. The membership seems to be committed and highly motivated to see the event succeed.

Questions? Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is here to assist. Please contact:

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