

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS 2020 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Cleveland Women's Orchestra

Your Project Title: Cleveland Women's Orchestra 85th Anniversary Community Concert.

Your Project Summary: The debut concert of the CWO was given in Severance Hall in 1936 and each spring we return to present an affordable and accessible symphonic program to the underserved & broader community. This annual program is also a celebration of our tradition and history -and for 2020- our 85th Anniversary. Over our 85 years we have featured young emerging artists as soloists as well as established world class artist. In 2020 we will feature pianist Antonio Pompa-Baldi who first appeared with us in 2000.

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](#).



Maxine Gaiber
(Philadelphia, PA)



**Kirkston Tyrone
Spann**
(Chicago, IL)



Rishard Allen
(Indianapolis, IN)

Below you will find the panel's scores and any feedback 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: Somewhat

While the organization mission is very worthy, the overall tone of the application did not convince me either way as to the necessity for supporting this request. While the basic fundamentals of the funding criteria were met, the applicant could have done a better job of clearly explaining what the short and long term effects this program would have on the targeted community. What is the follow up for those individuals who attend Severance Hall for the first time to ensure they come back in the future?

Panelist 2

Score: Somewhat

This proposal somewhat meets CAC funding criteria. The support letters were good indicators of the strong partnerships the organization has made with organizations serving the economically challenged. The Orchestra's mission is to "perpetuate opportunities for women musicians to reach their full potential." I question why a woman's orchestra has a male conductor, especially since he was recently hired, and why it is featuring a male soloist at its most important concert of the year. This showed lack of public benefit and artistic and cultural vibrancy.

Panelist 3

Score: No

I'm immediately concerned by the consistent use of "underserved" without providing a definition of who that includes. Also, in Q1, the applicant refers to "the general public and those with less means." Are "those with less means" not a part of the general public? In Q3, the applicant states that they reach a broad and diverse audience, but does not provide evidence that those free tickets result in physical bodies in the seats, or at the minimum, how many. More broadly, I'm concerned that an organization founded to promote female musicians appointed another male conductor and is centering its 85th anniversary concert around a male soloist. It seems like some decisions were made out of convenience.

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

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