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March 13, 2018

Mrs. Nancy Dishner  
The Niswonger Foundation  
P.O. Box 5112  
Greeneville, TN 37743

Dear Mrs. Dishner,

On behalf of the Johnson City Symphony Orchestra, I am submitting a proposal to fund one of our concerts for the 2018/2019 season. The proposal is as follows:

### **Exec Summary**

In November of 1969, nearly 50 years ago, patrons of the arts began raising funds for the brand new Johnson City Symphony Orchestra (JCSO). They felt that with two colleges and a university in the area along with a constant influx of new people plus our own residents, there should be musical talent in Johnson City Tennessee, and that the community should have the opportunity to hear these talented musicians perform! And so it began!

JCSO started out with just 28 members and has grown into a 70+ piece orchestra. The current Music Director and Conductor, Rob Seebacher, has been with JCSO for approximately 10 years. Under his direction, the quality of classical symphonic music has soared. The 2018/2019 season will mark JCSO's 50th season.

Today, JCSO has achieved recognition for its sustainment of the arts in Northeast Tennessee. The Orchestra has always seen itself as a service organization, providing quality entertainment and music education to young and old alike. To that end, the organization has reached out into the community with activities such as an instrumental petting zoo for children in public elementary schools, a free outdoor concert to the community at-large, partnering with Milligan College and it's chapter of National Association for Music Education, partnering with ETSU's Lamar Scholarship program's music students, offering free tickets to music students and veterans, conducting food and toy drives, providing free bus service for senior patrons, lectures to patrons and college students, to name a few. This summer, we will partner with the local library sharing music and musical instruments with young children. Next fall we are planning to start a music program involving at-risk youth. As our mission statement expresses, we want to provide and promote excellent symphonic music to the region with a quality orchestra that enriches, educates and entertains an expanding and diverse audience.

## **Objectives**

Keeping our region culturally vibrant is of paramount importance to us. Showcasing local musicians within the orchestra gives these musicians an outlet to share their talents. Bringing in well-known national and international artists to the Tri-Cities area allows people to experience music at a different level. Having quality musicians that can interpret classical scores in such a way that builds appreciation for symphonic music and increases cultural enrichment is priceless. The orchestral experience provides meaningful engagement within communities through a vast array of teaching, leading, facilitating and training.

## **Need Statement**

Funding is critical to sustain the arts. Local schools and government have reduced spending in the area of arts and culture even though research has shown the great educational, health, and social value of music in the lives of both children and adults. The ability to attract and retain creative human talent is the key to economic growth of communities. Businesses are competing to get the most talented and brightest workers by selling them on the cultural vibrancy of their communities. Cities that are most successful in attracting these workers are the ones that have exciting art and cultural offerings.

As a small non-profit, we interested in growing with our community, and are looking for additional funding so we can make a difference in this region. With the new tax laws, non-profit organizations are concerned that donations will dwindle as incentives for making contributions have been minimized. We are looking at organizations like yours that have an appreciation for arts and culture, and a love for this area to stand in the gap.

## **Budget**

Next season we have seven concerts planned. The average cost to put on a single full concert performance with a guest artist and 70-80 musicians is approximately \$22,000. The majority of our funding comes from individual donations from our patrons and a small grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission. Funding from your organization would be an investment in the growth of the Northeast Tennessee community.

In prior years, the Niswonger Foundation has contributed to our programing efforts. We hope you will once again consider funding a concert in whole or in part. Any donations would be acknowledged in all of our media outlets. We greatly appreciate your time and efforts in reviewing this proposal, and we look forward to hearing from you. If I can assist to answer any questions you might have, please do not hesitate to call me.

Best regards,



Lisa Wilkerson  
General Manager

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

Washington, DC 20224

The Johnson City Symphony  
Orchestra, Inc.  
P.O. Box 533  
Johnson City, Tennessee  
37601

Person to Contact:

Telephone Number:

Refer Reply to:

E:EO:T:R:2-4  
Date:

APR 15 1976

Employer Identification Number: 62-0910261  
Key District: Atlanta  
Accounting Period Ending: December 31  
Form 990 Required:  Yes  No

Dear Applicant:

Based on information supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We have further determined you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code, because you are an organization described in section 509(a)(2)

You are not liable for social security (FICA) taxes unless you file a waiver of exemption certificate as provided in the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. You are not liable for the taxes imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Since you are not a private foundation, you are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, you are not automatically exempt from other Federal excise taxes.

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of section 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.