

## GRANT AWARD FORM

**Grant Award Form:** Please complete the Project Questions below and include this page in your

Final Report materials submitted to the address below.

The information provided in question #1 - 5 should be the same as the information on your Urbana

Arts Grant Agreement with the City.

1. **GRANTEE:** Name of Applicant or Primary Contact:

Urbana Pops Orchestra (Debra Levey Larson)

Address: 207 W. California, Urbana, IL 61801

Project Title: 2015 UPO Season

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2. **TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT FUNDS AWARDED:** \$2,000.00

3. **TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED TO DATE:** \$1,000.00.

4. **GRANT PERIOD:** April 1, 2016 through April 1 2016.

5. **EXPENDITURE DEADLINE:** \_\_\_\_ July 11, 2015 \_\_\_\_.

6. **DATE OF PROJECT COMPLETION:** \_ July, 11, 2015 \_\_\_\_.



*plays well with others*

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207 W. California, Urbana, IL 61801

Pauline Tannos  
City of Urbana, Public Arts Program  
Community Development Services  
400 S. Vine Street  
Urbana, Illinois 61801  
ptannos@urbanaininois.us

August 1, 2015

Dear Ms. Tannos,

I hereby certify that I am authorized to approve this Report, which serves as a Request for Reimbursement, that I have reviewed the attached invoices in the amount of \$2,000.00; that all costs claimed have been incurred for the Project in accordance with the Agreement between Urbana Pops Orchestra and the CITY OF URBANA; that all submitted invoices have been paid; and no costs included herein have been previously submitted.

Sincerely,

Debra Levey Larson  
(217-979-1910; debra@urbanapops.org)

**Board Officers**

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**Urbana Pops Orchestra—207 W. California, Urbana, IL 61801**



*plays well with others!*

## **Post Project Evaluation, August 1, 2015**

**Accomplishment and Use of Funding** – Urbana Pops Orchestra (UPO) offered three recitals and two concerts completely free of charge to the community in 2015.

*Once Upon a Tune* was held on Saturday, June 13 at 7 p.m. in the cafetorium at Urbana Middle School. This concert had several highlights: Urbana High School junior Henry Ando played Mozart's Concerto in A Major, movement 1 for clarinet with the orchestra.

WILL's Roger Cooper narrated "Peter and the Wolf." Music from *Frozen* and the *Overture to William Tell* were favorites. UPO also premiered the winning piece from its annual composition contest in the junior division. This was the third year that UPO performed the winning composition of a young composer.

*Jazz in the Square* was held on Saturday, July 11 in the high court of Lincoln Square Mall. This was a new endeavor for UPO and afforded some unique opportunities. One was to feature local alto saxophonist Clark Gibson with the jazz ensemble. Another was to showcase a new local jazz singer/songwriter Sara McDonald. Her music offered a new take on jazz with a contemporary sound in juxtaposition with the more traditional jazz sounds of the rest of the program.

Rounding out the evening were excerpts from this year's Urbana Park District's Youth Summer Theatre production of *The Pajama Game* performed by cast members (wearing their pajamas) accompanied by music specially arranged for the jazz ensemble. For both concerts, enthusiastic audiences packed the middle school cafetorium and high court of the mall to near capacity.

**Impact of Grant Funding** – This is a community that loves to volunteer their time and talent. Musicians are no different, playing frequently for free—even after the often-quoted 10,000 hours of practice that it takes to be able to play an instrument at a high-proficiency level. However, as professionals, they also expect to be and should be paid. With an orchestra of UPO's size, even a small stipend adds up to a sizeable amount—much more than local fundraising can accomplish—and unfortunately, not at the level of other local ensembles (UPO pays a one-time stipend of \$50/section musician and \$90/principal compared with other ensemble rates of \$75 to \$125 for each rehearsal and performance). Perhaps because the summer holds fewer conflicts and concert programming is more unusual, many of them are willing to play for UPO for a lower rate. Obtaining the City of Urbana Arts Grant has enabled the UPO to attract more professional musicians, thus ensuring a high-quality performance. And, while other orchestras charge students a fee, UPO student musicians are mentored by professionals, given special student-only rehearsals, and are not charged a fee to participate, thanks to the Urbana grant.

**The number of hours spent in completing the project – over 1,000 (see attached sheet). These hours do not include the practice and performance hours of UPO’s many musicians.**

**The number of participants in events or activities** – *Once Upon a Tune* featured 44 paid professional musicians, 9 student interns, and approximately 225 people in the audience. *Jazz in the Square* included 20 pros, 2 students, 36 Park District cast members, and an audience of approximately 200 people.

UPO provided the pit orchestra for Urbana Park District’s Youth Summer Theatre performance of *The Pajama Game*, which included a cast of 50 youth and were supported by 6 professional musicians and 7 students, assuring a solid sound with yet another opportunity for professional musicians to mentor students. *The Pajama Game*’s four performances entertained a total of approximately 1,200 audience members.

Attendance at the three free recitals at Urbana Free Library ranged from 35 to 80 per recital, each attracting a very different clientele than typically attend UPO concerts. Many were unfamiliar with Urbana Pops Orchestra and knew the recitalist or had stumbled on the recitals as a result of the music wafting up the staircase.

**Community Collaborations** – UPO has very successful ongoing collaborative agreements with the Urbana Park District and Urbana School District #116. Last year UPO developed a new partnership with Urbana Free Library by co-hosting recitals in their lower-level auditorium. This year, UPO co-hosted three free recitals and expanded upon the relationship in two ways. Because this year’s summer reading program theme was “Read to the Rhythm,” UPO provided a percussion petting zoo for young library patrons one afternoon at the library. UPO’s June concert theme incorporated the story of *Peter and the Wolf* so Urbana Free Library staff offered a pre-concert story time. Children’s librarian Lora Fegley read orchestra-related stories to about 30 children. This has been a mutually wonderful new collaboration.

The Urbana High School auditorium was unavailable this year due to the kitchen renovation, so UPO needed to find an alternative space to perform. The June concert at Urbana Middle School worked very well for the large ensemble. UPO collaborated with Lincoln Square to use their high court and seating for *Jazz in the Square*.

International Galleries and Dr. G’s BrainWorks provided gift certificates for drawings at both concerts. This provides a vehicle for obtaining contact info, is fun for the audience, and promotes local businesses.

This year’s pit orchestra for *The Pajama Game* is wonderful way for UPO each year to remember its roots in this community and support Urbana’s youth musical theatre efforts. This year the Park District contributed a bit more so that 6 professional musicians could be hired, but who were still outnumbered by the 7 student musicians.

**Additional Information** – The 2015 UPO season was particularly satisfying because of the ability to offer all 3 recitals and both concerts absolutely free to the public. At each event, there were many

seniors and families with several small children – populations that often cannot fit this caliber of live entertainment into their tight budgets.

The accessibility of UPO's programs allows listeners to experience familiar music in a new way – hearing Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* live and narrated by local voice legend Roger Cooper is a unique experience. The music from the recent hit family film *Frozen* was met with the sound of numerous young voices rising up out of the dark auditorium whenever the themes were played. While in a more formal setting, those voices may have been shushed, they are celebrated at UPO concerts.

UPO offers unique educational opportunities as well. The winning piece in the junior division in this year's composition contest was premiered at the June concert and the winning piece in the senior division was premiered at the July concert. Facilitating the composition contest and the Illinois Music Educators Association strings practice session in early October, are two extra, unique, unfunded programs sponsored by UPO to promote and support music education in Urbana.

This year, UPO's free recital series --one recital on the second Sunday of February, March, and April in The Urbana Free Library-- offered a wide variety of music. Each month a UPO principal musician performed for about an hour. February- Evan Tammen, oboe; March-Karen DeBauche, clarinet; and April-Molly O'Roark, harp. Student musicians performed alongside the adult soloists, including Henry Ando, who also performed at the June concert. This year, because of the grant and generous donors, UPO was able to offer each of the adult musicians a small stipend.

Name	Planning	Administration	Promotion	Production	Concerts	Individual Total	
Daniel	112	12		9	222	5	360
Stephen	56	15		1	20	0	92
John	16	12		8	48	5	89
Debra	72	60		48	24	5	209
Liesel	14	10				4	28
Richard		16				4	20
Kellie		15				4	19
Eve	10	15				7	32
Mark		15				4	19
Diane	4	15				0	19
Sheri		10				4	14
Tim		15			20	5	40
Karen	4	18		2	20	4	48
Blasé	2	10			12	2	26
Sub total	288	238		68	354	53	
					grand total		1001



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# That's Entertainment: Spotighting events in and around the area

Sun, 07/05/2015 - 7:00am | Melissa Merli (/author/melissa-merli)

## Music scene

### *'Magic Flute' presentation*

Grand opera returns to the prairie this weekend for the 13th year with the Watseka-based Sugar Creek Opera's presentation of "The Magic Flute" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Clifton High School's Harold and Jean Minor Auditorium, about an hour north of Champaign.

The popular Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart comic opera will be performed in English, with spoken dialogue and singing. Several musicians from the Champaign, Peoria and Chicago areas perform in the orchestra, and this year, Alexander Indelicato and Tim Renner, both of Champaign, are part of Sugar Creek Opera's Danis Wilson Apprentice Program.

Sugar Creek, co-founded by Watseka native Helen Todd, a professional opera singer, features other young professionals, among them Andrew Gangestad, who sings frequently at the Met in New York.

Mozart's masterpiece tells of a prince who charms wild animals, and a bird catcher, Papageno. They set off together in search of the queen's missing daughter.

Gangestad, a bass, will sing the role of Sarastro. Other principal cast members are soprano Leila Bowie as Pamina; tenor Gennard Lombardozzi, Tamino, the handsome Prince; and lyric baritone Reuben L. Lillie, Papageno. Todd is producing and directing. Maestro Bruce Stasyna, music director of the



Vero Beach (Florida) Opera, conducts. Susan Benson designed some of the costumes, and some are being rented from the Minnesota Opera.

Tickets are on sale via [sugarcreekopera.com](http://sugarcreekopera.com), where a seating chart may be viewed, or by calling 815-432-3830. New this year: special ticket prices for students. Students who are 18 and younger pay \$20; college students, \$25. Adult tickets range from \$40 to \$75.

### *Annual music festival*

The Champaign Music Festival returns to downtown Champaign from 6 to midnight Saturday with two national acts: Smash Mouth and Toad the Wet Sprocket.

Smash Mouth, a multi-platinum and Grammy-nominated alternative rock band, is known for its 1997 hit "Walkin' on the Sun" from its major label debut "Fush Yu Mang." The band's follow-up album, "Astrolounge," produced three Top 10 hits.

Preceding Smash Mouth, now touring to support their latest CD, "Magic," will be Toad the Wet Sprocket, a rock band that's also released Billboard-charting hits such as "Walk on the Ocean," "All I Want" and "Something's Always Wrong." The Champaign Park District event is free.

### *Tunes at Allerton Park*

The Allerton Park (Monticello) Concert Series continues with an outdoor concert Friday featuring veteran bluesman Candy Foster and his Shades of Blue band.

They perform from 7 to 9 p.m. on the Gate House Lawn as part of the series presented by the University of Illinois Employees Credit Union.

The suggested donation for entry is \$5 per person and \$10 a family. Drinks will be sold between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

### *Jazz at Lincoln Square*

The Urbana Pops Jazz Orchestra will make its debut at 7 p.m. Saturday in the high court of Lincoln Square Village, Urbana.

The free "Jazz in the Square" concert will feature singer-songwriter Sara MacDonald, saxophonist Clark Gibson and the cast of the Urbana Park District's Youth Summer Theater production "The Pajama Game."

Originally from Champaign, McDonald is a graduate of the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, with a degree in vocal jazz. She has performed at the Montreal Jazz Festival and recently recorded "A Very Tiny Big Band." She won the Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award in 2014.

Gibson has performed with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, the Temptations, the Four Tops, the Jim Knapp Orchestra, Lalo Rodriguez and many other artists. He received a doctorate in jazz studies from the University of Illinois. His second album, "Iapetus," features his original compositions and arrangements. Gibson teaches at Heartland Community College and the UI.

The 2015 Urbana Pops Orchestra season is supported in part by a city of Urbana Arts Grant and a grant from the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois. The Urbana Pops Orchestra is affiliated with the Urbana Park District and Urbana School District. For more information, visit [UrbanaPops.org](http://UrbanaPops.org).

### *Talented pianist*

Internationally acclaimed pianist Kara Huber of Toronto will return to her native Coles County to perform a benefit concert at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Newman Catholic Center, 500