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Minigrant Proposal

## **Attending the Jazz Education Network Conference**

### *Project Overview*

I am applying for a MAS Minigrant to attend the Jazz Education Network (JEN) Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana this coming winter from January 7th to January 10th. This conference, held in the birthplace of jazz, offers vocal jazz and improvisation clinics, networking opportunities, presentations about the jazz industry and research, masterclasses, and top-tier jazz performances.

While UVA has many resources for me as a jazz musician, notably the opportunity to work one on one with faculty like Stephanie Nakasian and John D'earth, the music department classes tend to be theory and classical music focused as opposed to jazz performance and improvisation focused. This conference will allow me to engage with jazz through very specific workshops like the following:

- Learning to Play by Ear
- Quality Repertoire in Vocal Jazz: Adapting and Commissioning Arrangements
- Jazz Rehearsal Techniques and Strategies
- Vocal Improvisation: It's a Matter of Style
- Enhancing Combo Performances Through Arranging for Jazz Combo

Through these classes, I will be exposed to a large array of jazz teachers and schools of thought from a global network of jazz musicians, something I do not have access to in Charlottesville. In order to attend the conference, I must also purchase a membership to eJEN, which includes the added benefit of an e-subscription to *Downbeat* magazine. *Downbeat* is considered to be the official magazine on jazz and will help me stay up to date on jazz today and various jazz opportunities in the future. The membership also provides a valuable network of jazz musicians, educators, students, and enthusiasts that will be useful in building my personal network of jazz mentors and peers.

I hope to use all the information, connections, and techniques I will gain at this conference to enhance my musicianship and participate in the jazz community as a true professional. This experience will be unforgettable and extremely helpful as I continue to develop my own personal style of jazz singing and hone my improvisational skills.

The costs of flying to New Orleans and staying there for five days in addition to purchasing a membership and ticket to the conference are beyond my personal budget. The minigrant would be very helpful in supporting the costs of this enriching experience.

I am also applying for another grant through the Dean's office (the small research and travel grant) to support this trip, which would still not cover all the costs like registration and membership, but I will not know until December if I have received it. There are also issues in terms of eligibility for the grant that cannot be sorted out before the deadline of this minigrant. I am therefore proposing two grant options: option A assuming I am not awarded the small travel grant and solely use this minigrant on the trip, and option B assuming I am awarded the other grant.

Should I be awarded the small research and travel grant, I propose to use the money I would have used on lodging and airfare on hiring a videographer and/or a photographer to document four of my live concerts this semester. These high quality video recordings would build upon my previous Miller grant funded projects to establish a web presence that will enable me to construct a high quality portfolio. A robust web presence with professional videos will enable me to apply to competitions that require video entries, and also seek gigs with more credibility.

*Timeline A (no travel grant)*

**Late October:** Purchase eJEN membership, conference ticket, plane ticket, and lodging

**November-December:** Prepare for the conference by reading up on current jazz news through the eJEN membership and through intense practice to widen repertoire

**January 7-10:** Attend the conference and workshops in New Orleans

*Budget A (no travel grant)*

Item	Cost	Justification
eJEN Annual Membership	\$45	A year long membership to the Jazz Education network, necessary to attend conference. Provides free e-subscription to <i>Downbeat</i>
JEN Conference Cost	\$75	Student rate for attending the conference itself
Airplane Ticket	\$200	Lowest quote given by Kayak for a round trip flight from DC to New Orleans
Portion of the Airbnb Cost	\$180	This will cover a portion of the Airbnb lodging costs during the conference stay
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500</b>	
Additional Costs	\$302	The rest of the cost of the Airbnb that I will cover with my own savings

I am requesting \$500 for attending this jazz conference and for its associated costs. I am willing to pay the extra \$302 from my savings.

*Timeline B (with travel grant)*

**Late October:** Purchase eJEN membership and conference ticket

**Late October - November:** Prepare for the conference by reading up on current jazz news through the eJEN membership and through intense practice to widen repertoire and film four upcoming concerts on 10/26 (Jazz Ensemble), 11/2 (Artcho Festival), 11/5 (WTJU), and 11/17 (Jazz Chamber Groups)

**January 7-10:** Attend the conference and workshops in New Orleans

*Budget B (with travel grant)*

Item	Cost	Justification
eJEN Annual Membership	\$45	A year long membership to the Jazz Education network, necessary to attend conference. Provides free e-subscription to <i>Downbeat</i>
JEN Conference Cost	\$75	Student rate for attending the conference itself
Professional Videographer and Photographers	\$380	Cost of hiring professionals for four different concerts to properly record them
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500</b>	