

LOWVILLE FESTIVAL
6092 GUELPH LINE
BURLINGTON, ON

To: C & CS Committee
City of Burlington

Re: Lowville Festival
Request for Funding

August 25th, 2016

Dear Sirs/Mesdames

At the suggestion of Mr. John Taylor, Councillor for Ward Three, we would like to bring a delegation to the upcoming meeting of the C & CS Committee, to be held on Monday September 12th. Our hope is that we can secure funding from the City to offset the modest deficit incurred as a result of anticipated support from the City's new Community Matching Grant Fund that was not forthcoming.

The Lowville Festival is an incorporated not-for-profit organization which recently presented its second annual festival on the weekend of July 22-24, 2016. "A festival of all the arts for the artist in all of us" is, as our motto suggests, a multidisciplinary festival that is also highly participatory. The latter is a particularly unique aspect of our festival. Our festival exists to celebrate the natural and heritage aspects of north Burlington.

This summer we presented music of many genres, including classical, jazz, folk, pop and musical theatre, as well as theatre, mime and kids programming. Last year we presented spoken word and have plans to incorporate dance and visual arts in future seasons. I have attached the media release promoting this season's festival, which provides a good overview of our programming.

In terms of participation we were delighted to bring together sixty amateur singers from Lowville, Burlington and region to launch the festival. There is general agreement among many discerning attendees, who included representatives from the Burlington Performing Arts Centre and the former Head of the Ontario Arts Council, that the Lowville Festival Choir is the finest choir in the region.

The Lowville Festival is very proud of its commitment to presenting the finest professional and up-and-coming performers from Lowville, Burlington and region. We have averaged over 80% local content in our first two festivals.

The Festival applied to the new Community Matching Grant Fund in the spring. Although we did not meet the criteria for this new programme, we were encouraged by the Parks and Recreation Department to submit an application, as there was a possibility that the initial criteria would be amended.

In late May we were informed that granting decisions would not be revealed until the end of June, which was much too late in terms of our July timetable. As a result, we were given advance notice in early June. We were advised that we would need to demonstrate more succinctly the ways in which our festival was launching new initiatives, in an effort to more closely match the grant criteria. This we undertook. Unfortunately, in spite of our best efforts, we were ultimately turned down, which news we received right at the end of June.

By this time we had elected to present the festival, in spite of the fact that our budget, without the \$4000 we were anticipating to receive from the City, was projecting a deficit.

Just prior to the festival, we learned that the No Vacancy organization came to this committee in an effort to secure funds for their September Moonglade event. It turned out that they, like us, had been turned down for support from the Matching Grant programme. We understand they have been successful in securing City support as a result of their delegation.

The Lowville Festival is a very similar venture to No Vacancy, ie. a not-for-profit arts organization celebrating Burlington's professional artists through an annual event. Furthermore, our organization is undertaking this in the City's culturally underserved northern region.

We feel it is only fair that our organization also be entitled to support from the City.

The founders of the Lowville Festival- Lorretta Bailey, one of Canada's most distinguished theatre artists and herself a citizen of Lowville; Barbara Anderson-Huget, a longtime arts administrator, equally at home in both the visual and performing arts; and myself, proprietor of one of the country's pre-eminent artist management companies, who was recently inducted into the Burlington Performing

Arts Hall of Fame- have demonstrated in the two years of the festival's existence that we can present a festival with impeccable artistic standards and fiscal probity. With our recent incorporation, we are now setting about the creation of a board, with plans to increase fundraising through a wide variety of federal and provincial grants, solicitations to foundations and corporations. The future for our organization is fraught with great potential.

We hope that the committee will be sympathetic to our request and provide us with a grant of \$4000.

Sincerely

Robert Missen
Lorretta Bailey
Barbara Anderson-Huget

Co- Artistic Directors of Lowville Festival

LOWVILLE FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR SECOND SEASON JULY 22-24, 2016 MUSIC AND THEATRE IN NORTH BURLINGTON'S BEAUTIFUL ESCARPMENT COUNTRY

BURLINGTON, ONTARIO

JUNE 14TH. 2016

The Lowville Festival will again be presenting superb musical and theatrical experiences for audiences old and young in north Burlington's majestic Escarpment country. The inaugural Lowville Festival in July 2015 was such a success that Co-Artistic Directors Robert Missen, Lorretta Bailey and Barbara Anderson-Huget have decided to make it into an annual event. This year's festival will again feature some of Burlington and region's finest performing artists.

The Lowville Festival defines itself as "a festival of all the arts for the artist in all of us". The ultimate aim is not only to feature all of the performing, visual and literary arts, but to provide opportunities for audiences to participate in the creative process. To that end, local singers are invited to join the Lowville Festival Choir, which will appear in the opening concert. Patrons of the Folkies' Choice concert will be invited to choose which of the featured songwriters should be saluted in a 2017 concert. And children will have an opportunity to participate in a workshop with the nationally acclaimed Dufflebag Theatre.

The 2016 festival will be launched on Friday July 22nd with a gala concert at St. George's Hall entitled **MUSIC FOR A SUMMER NIGHT- CLASSIC AND CLASSICAL**. This concert will feature superb artists in performances of classical, jazz, musical theatre, cabaret, pop and crossover music. These include Burlington's Charles Cozens, Renee Barabash, Trevor Copp, Robert Missen and Lorretta Bailey, Guelph's James Gordon and Toronto's David Warrack. A highlight will be an appearance by the Lowville Festival Choir under the direction of Hamilton-born Wayne Strongman, former conductor of the Bach-Elgar Choir.

Saturday's daytime activities will take place in Lowville's Old Schoolhouse, a limestone edifice located right in the centre of the hamlet of Lowville. **DUFFLEBAG THEATRE**, the popular kids theatre company from London, Ontario, will present a performance of **ROBIN HOOD**. Prior to the performance will be the aforementioned workshop.

Lowville United Church will play host on Saturday night to **FOLKIES' DELIGHT: THE BEST OF THE SINGER-SONGWRITERS**. Burlington's Andy Griffiths and Stuart Laughton, Hamilton's Jude Johnson and Carl Horton, Dundas's Ariel Rogers and Toronto's Paul Novotny will offer a tribute to eight great songwriters- Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, Gordon Lightfoot, Buffy Ste. Marie, Cat Stevens, Carole King, Leonard Cohen and Stan Rogers.

The festival finale, to be presented at Lowville United Church in the afternoon of Sunday July 24th, is **LOVE LETTERS**, A. R. Gurney's popular two-character play. The performance, which features Lorretta Bailey and Eric Trask, nationally renowned actors resident in Lowville who also happen to be husband and wife, will be a fundraiser for the festival.

The Lowville Festival is the vision of two Burlington performing artists, Lorretta Bailey, a Lowville resident, who has performed in musical theatre productions across Canada, including the original Toronto production of Les Miserables, and Robert Missen, proprietor of the Bobolink Agency, one of the country's pre-eminent artist management companies, who was the 2016 inductee into the Burlington Performing Arts Centre Hall of Fame. They have been joined by Barbara Anderson-Huget, and former Managing Director of the Guelph Jazz Festival and Executive Director of CARFAC Ontario, the association of visual artists.

ONLINE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT SNAP TICKETS BURLINGTON.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ROBERT MISSEN AT 905-632-6047 or

rmissen@sympatico.ca

LOWVILLE FESTIVAL 2016
A FESTIVAL OF ALL THE ARTS FOR THE ARTIST IN ALL OF US
JULY 22-24, 2016

Friday, July 22

7:30pm

Music for a Summer Night - Classic and Classical

St. George's Church Hall

\$25 online (advance) \$30 at the door;

Featuring:

Lowville Festival Choir

Wayne Strongman, Conductor

James Gordon, David Warrack, Renee Barabash, Robert Missen, Lorretta Bailey,
Simone Caruso, and Charles Cozens

A gala concert to launch our second annual festival which features some of the finest classical, jazz, musical theatre, pop and crossover musicians from Burlington, Hamilton, Guelph and Toronto.

Saturday, July 23

2:00pm

Workshop for Children with Dufflebag Theatre Company

Old Lowville Schoolhouse

\$25 for both workshop & show

For ages 5-10 years and the lucky adults who come along

What's more fun than watching a terrific theatre show... acting in it! Get your children involved in this workshop so they can discover the joy of theatre and creative expression.

3:00pm

Robin Hood by Dufflebag Theatre

Old Lowville Schoolhouse

\$15

For ages 5-10 years and the lucky adults who come along

A rollicking good time will be had with Robin Hood and his Merry Men in the forests of the Niagara Escarpment. This traditional story of "rebalancing resources" in our society will be told with humour and lots of action! Presented by the nationally acclaimed Dufflebag Theatre.

Saturday, July 23

7:30pm

Folkies' Delight: The Best of The Singer/Songwriters

Lowville United Church

\$25 advance (online); \$30 at the door

We've selected 8 of the greatest singer/songwriters in folk-rock music and then chosen 2 of their most iconic songs. Who better to interpret these songs than: Jude Johnson, Ariel Rogers, Andy Griffiths and Stuart Laughton, four of the region's finest performers. This will be an evening of hit after hit. Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Leonard Cohen, Cat Stevens, Stan Rogers, Carole King, Buffy St. Marie, Gordon Lightfoot --- need we say more?

Sunday, July 24

3:00pm

Love Letters by A. R. Gurney

Lowville United Church

\$25 online (advance); \$30 at the door

Lowville residents and renowned Canadian actors, Lorretta Bailey and Eric Trask, will perform this celebrated play by Buffalo playwright A. R. Gurney whose many plays have been hits on Broadway and throughout the world. Required to find a pen pal at summer camp, our two characters continue to write to each other throughout their eventful lives. We get their insights into what is going on with their dates, spouses, children, jobs and friends. Funny, sarcastic, witty, angry --- and then they fall in love.

Tickets available online as of June 17th
For more information, go to lowvillefestival.com