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Stanley Osowski

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The Rhode Island Civic Chorale & Orchestra

334 Westminster Street, Suite 300, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, (401) 521-5670

FOUNDER: LOUIS PICHIERRI PRESIDENT: STANLEY OSOWSKI MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR: DR. EDWARD MARKWARD

March 6, 1991

D. Antoinette Handy
Director
Music Program
National Endowment for the Arts
Washington, D. C. 20506

Re: Application No. A-90-017856

Dear Ms. Handy:

This is a response to your letter of February 27, 1991, to the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra wherein it is noted that our application for a grant was denied, again.

The letter states that our request was reviewed by the Chorus Section of the Music Advisory Panel and that the application was given thoughtful and thorough attention. I am here challenging that assertion and questioning the qualification of the reviewing panel to make any sort of evaluation of the last two applications by the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra.

These are some facts that have been overlooked. The Chorale scheduled a Freedom theme concert on January 19, 1991. Normally we do not schedule another concert so soon after our December concert due to insufficient rehearsal time and because, with only three concerts a season, the Chorale cannot afford a limited audience due to possible adverse weather.

Ads were placed in a black community paper and literature was mailed to approximately twenty-five black churches. Individual material was mailed to Board members of the Langston Hughes Center for the Arts.

The result of all this special effort was zero from either the black community or the National Endowment for the Arts.

Our application for the preceding year (season 1990/91) featured a commissioned work by composer Paul Nelson for soprano, chorus and orchestra entitled "Cantata Psalmorum." A Paul Nelson previous composition entitled "Vox Aeterna Amoris" was one of four modern pieces selected out of over 450 works submitted to be performed at Carnegie Hall on February 19, 1991. That concert was sponsored by the New Music Project of the National Orchestra Association, which chose the four works out of that considerable number of applicants.

I seriously doubt that any choral group in the same category as the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra, or even totally professional choral societies, can match this record of achievement. And yet, for all of that, both of these very special programs were denied support by the NEA.

Life Members: Dr. Marisa Allegra
 Prof. Arlan Coolidge
 Mr. Ernest Falciglia

Mrs. Robert H. I. Goddard
Mrs. C. Woodbury Gorman
Mrs. Jay Isenberg

Mrs. John Lawson
Miss Beatrice Ward
Mrs. Russel C. Wiley

D. Antoinette Handy

March 6, 1991

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It is my belief that no serious consideration was given to either application and that any (if any) funds were directed mainly to other choral societies in the Boston area.

It hardly seems worthwhile for the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra to spend great amounts of time preparing applications when we perceive those applications as being turned down, out of hand, with inadequate review of what is being performed and with no consideration of the Chorale's thirty-four years as the premier chorale society in Rhode Island.

A response to our claims would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stanley Osowski". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Stanley Osowski
President

SO\dc