

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA CARLETON
 MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA CARLETON

REPORT
 RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 06 96 0155
 Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 26 August 1996

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator
 Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee

FROM/EXP. Regional Clerk

SUBJECT/OBJET **GRANTS REQUEST OUTSIDE REGULAR GRANTS PROCESS:
 B'NAI BRITH CANADA -
 THE EMPEROR OF ATLANTIS OPERA**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee recommend Council approve a grant request in the amount of \$4,000 for the B'nai Brith's Emperor of Atlantis Opera, with the funds to be provided from the Provision for Unforeseen.

PURPOSE

This report presents a project grant request (Annex A) in the amount of \$4,000 as a contribution towards the production of the opera "The Emperor of Atlantis" at the National Arts Centre.

BACKGROUND

B'nai Brith Canada are producing the opera, "The Emperor of Atlantis" and a series of related activities in Ottawa from October 13 to 24. The overall program includes the production of the opera as well as an educational art exhibit, lectures, and films screenings. Organizers are working with local school boards and educational institutions to relate the production to educational curriculum.

The Emperor was composed by Viktor Ullmann in a Nazi concentration camp, Theresienstadt, in 1943. The work is allegorical, denounces dictatorship, and chronicles events in Europe beginning in 1924. The work was rehearsed but never performed in the camp as it was prohibited by the authorities. Viktor Ullmann was sent to Auschwitz where he died in 1944.

PANEL DISCUSSION

In accordance with the Grants Outside Budget Guideline, the application was reviewed by the Regional Clerk to determine initial eligibility and subsequently considered by a recommendation panel made up of Louise Crandall, Ottawa Tourism and Convention Authority; Luce Lavoie of Information and Public Affairs; and Carol Sage, Manager, Arts Grants Program, RMOC.

The proposal is clear and well defined, presenting a professional approach to sponsorship, promotion, public education and partnership. There are several funding and presenting partners plus a strong volunteer component.

This production of The Emperor of Atlantis is a coveted North American premiere which will attract great audience interest and support. The artistry of Victor Ullmann and the Austrian ensemble Arbos is acknowledged internationally and undoubtedly will receive critical acclaim.

From the tourism industry point of view, the Opera will serve as an attraction for the large number of visitors who are interested in cultural activities. The October presentation dates are a welcome addition to the visitors Calendar of Events.

The Region recently joined a common effort to market Ottawa as a world class, dynamic city. The Opera will be well promoted and will receive considerable media attention. Supporting a major cultural event of this significance is consistent with the objective of promoting our area as international and world class.

CONCLUSIONS - RECOMMENDATION PANEL

As this is a major project that will promote Ottawa-Carleton internationally, and creatively highlights international human issues, the Panel recommends that B'nai Brith receive a grant in the amount of \$4,000.

CONSULTATION

A public consultation process is not applicable for individual grant requests.

*Approved by
Mary Jo Woollam*

FINANCE DEPARTMENT COMMENT

Funds are available from the general provision for unforeseen.

*Approved by T. Fedec
on behalf of the Finance Commissioner*

THE EMPEROR of ATLANTIS

July 23, 1996



**Produced by
B'nai Brith
Canada**

151 CHAPEL ST.
OTTAWA, ONT.
K1N 7Y2

TEL: (613) 789-4922
FAX (613) 789-1325

In association with the
National Arts Centre

Presented by ARBOS

Under the patronage of:
• The Embassy of Austria
• The Embassy of Israel

With assistance from:
• The Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of Austria
• KLM
• The Government of
Carinthia
• The Embassy of The
Czech Republic
• StreetSmart Design
• Black Widow

In cooperation with:
• Opera Lyra Ottawa
• Cyberus

The Triumph of the Human Spirit!

Peter D. Clark
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton
Cartier Square, 111 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2L7

Dear Mr. Clark:

On behalf of B'nai Brith Canada and its Steering Committee for the opera, "The Emperor of Atlantis", I am writing to ask for your support for a unique cultural and educational event that will take place in Ottawa-Carleton in the Fall. I understand that it is still possible, on an exceptional basis, to receive a grant in September.

We are seeking a grant of \$4,000 from Ottawa-Carleton to ensure that the region and the National Arts Centre are the site of the North American premiere of the original score of a masterpiece of opera of the twentieth century as well as home to a unique public education effort that is linked to it. These activities and the region will receive international coverage with the cooperation of the embassies of Austria, Israel, the Netherlands and Sweden.

"The Emperor of Atlantis", composed by Victor Ullmann in the concentration camp Theresienstadt (in Terezin), will be the centrepiece of a number of works and exhibits each of which will be a testimony to the role of culture in strengthening resistance and hope during the Holocaust. Over the last six years "The Emperor" has come to be recognized as one of the master works of the twentieth century.

"The Emperor of Atlantis" will be staged in the Theatre of the National Arts Centre, October 22-24 (tickets will go on sale over the next few weeks) with possible performances in Montreal between October 26 and 30.

Performed by the award winning Austrian ensemble Arbos, the production will come about as a result of a broad grass roots effort coordinated by B'nai Brith Canada, under the auspices of the Austrian and Israeli ambassadors.

In Ottawa, the National Arts Centre, Opera Lyra Ottawa, the National Capital Opera Society and the embassy of the Czech Republic have given financial and other support to the project. The Dutch and Swedish embassies, Canada Post and the Austrian-Canadian Council have also recently joined this effort. Some support is also likely from the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa. This is the first time so many diverse organizations are supporting an event that will educate the public about the Holocaust and the issues related to it. To make the production of "The Emperor" more accessible, a prologue has been written to highlight the main plot, themes and characters and the libretto will be available in English, French and the original German.

We are planning to include electronic surtitles during all performances. A team of teachers from Ottawa school boards is preparing resources for use in the education system in the fall. To increase student participation in this community effort, our education committee is contacting Ottawa-Carleton school boards, universities and colleges to inform teachers and educators of the upcoming event and how it can support curriculum in areas such as history, art, theatre, music and languages.

In addition to this outreach there will be a youth matinee, subsidized student tickets and a deluxe programme booklet for the general public in both official languages. A supporting programme of activities includes the educational exhibit recently shown in Montreal, "Children in the Holocaust: A Legacy", a concert replicating the one given by Karl Ancerl in Theresienstadt, a lecture demonstration of Ullmann's music and two outstanding films on Viktor Ullmann and Theresienstadt. The aim is to make this an education experience for people of all ages and of all backgrounds.

The diplomatic community as well as a number of Ministers of the Federal government will be attending the opening evening of the opera. Over 3,000 people will be seeing the concert and associated activities. Materials sent to the schools will reach another 2,000 students. Over 200,000 copies of ads and materials will be distributed. In addition, we are creating a web site with hyperlinks to the sites of organizations dealing with human rights as well as arts and culture. There is the possibility of creating hyperlinks to the sites of major donors as well. Finally, B'nai Brith Canada as a major national Jewish organization will be promoting this project across the country.

Media have already expressed great interest in this project. A preliminary article by Richard Todd of The Ottawa Citizen is attached. CBC radio is intending to cover the opera production nationally in English and French. Media indicate the major coverage of this project is to take place from early September to early November.

For your information, you will find attached a package giving further details on the programme of activities and the opera

I would be pleased to provide any other information relating to this project. I can be reached at (613) 789-4922.

Sincerely,



Rubin Friedman
Director of Government Relations, B'nai Brith Canada

encl.

FIRST NORTH AMERICAN PRODUCTION
OF THE ORIGINAL SCORE!

THE EMPEROR of ATLANTIS



Presented by **ARBOS**

PRODUCED BY B'NAI BRITH CANADA UNDER THE
PATRONAGE OF THE AMBASSADORS OF
AUSTRIA AND ISRAEL
WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF AUSTRIA, KLM AIRLINES, AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF CARINTHIA
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE EMBASSY OF THE
CZECH REPUBLIC, OPERA LYRA OTTAWA, AND OTHER
COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Viktor Ullmann's opera, *The Emperor of Atlantis*, will be performed in Ottawa in October of 1996. Performed by the Austrian ensemble Arbos, the opera will be staged in the Theatre of the National Arts Centre on October 22-24, 1996.

Arbos, under the artistic leadership of Herbert Gantschacher, is highly acclaimed for its interpretation of twentieth-century music. Established in Salzburg, Austria, the company has been the subject of articles and feature broadcasts on European radio and television. For the 1993 Austrian premiere of Ullmann's opera, *The Emperor of Atlantis*, Arbos was awarded the prestigious "Music Theatre Performance of the Year" award in Prague. It is this production, with the original singers, musicians, and set designs, which will be presented in Ottawa.

In his colourful score, Ullmann blends jazz with traditional and avant-garde styles and cites such composers as Bach, Suk, Dvorak, Mahler, and Haydn. Ullmann's short, powerful work will be remembered as one of the seminal works of the twentieth century.

The presentation of this opera in Canada will mark the first North American production of the original score, an event that promises to be an outstanding and historical musical experience of a unique master work. The work, composed while Ullmann was interned by Nazis in the Theresienstadt concentration camp in the Czech city of Terezin, will also be the focus of a public education effort on the triumph of the human spirit in the face of the horror of the holocaust. Various artistic works will be presented in Ottawa to demonstrate how creativity flourished during the holocaust in the face of despair, cruelty, and death; all works presented have been chosen for their individual testimonies to resistance, hope, and valour.

B10 The Ottawa Citizen, Tuesday, June 25, 1996

ENTERTAINMENT

NAC offers opera written in concentration camp

By Richard Todd
Citizen correspondent

The Emperor of Atlantis, an opera by the early 20th century composer, Viktor Ullmann, will be staged in the theatre of the National Arts Centre from Oct. 22-24.

The work, composed while Ullmann was interned by the Nazis in the Theresienstadt concentration camp in the Czech city of Terezin, will also be the focus of a public-education effort on what organizers call the triumph of the human spirit in the face of the horror of the holocaust. The performance will be given by the Austrian ensemble Arbos, under the artistic leadership of Herbert Gantsschacher. The ensemble has been widely acclaimed for its interpretation and advocacy of 20th century music.

For the 1993 Austrian premiere of *The Emperor of Atlantis*, Arbos was awarded the "Music Theatre Performance of the Year" award in Prague.

It is this same production, with the original singers, musicians and set designs, that will be presented here. The Canadian presentation will be the first North American production of the original score.

Associated events include an exhibit of art called *Children of the Holocaust*, lectures, demonstrations, films on Viktor Ullman and a concert featuring works by Suk, Dvorak and Haas, replicating one given in Theresienstadt by Karl Ancerl, who later became conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

The opera and surrounding events are being produced by B'nai Brith Canada under the patronage of the Embassies of Austria and Israel, and with the assistance of numerous individuals and organizations, including the Embassy of the Czech Republic and Opera Lyra Ottawa.

THE EMPEROR of ATLANTIS



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- StreetSmart Design
- Black Widow

In cooperation with:

- Opera Lyra Ottawa
- Cyberus

Steering Committee

Orly Buzelan
Tibor Egervari
Rubin Friedman
Lynne Leclerc
Walther Lichem
Claire Miller
Jean Jacques Van
Vlasselaer (Chair)

The Triumph of the Human Spirit!

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Oct. 13-24

Educational Art Exhibit "Children in the Holocaust", presented in conjunction with the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre at the National Arts Centre. Focuses on the experience of children during the Holocaust; art, photographs and text.

October 20

3 pm

National Arts Centre Studio: Lecture demonstration on the work of Viktor Ullmann and the opera, "The Emperor of Atlantis" - Opera Lyra Children's Choir, Guest speakers from the original Theresienstadt orchestras, lead by Jean Jacques Van Vlasselaer, renowned music critic and expert on life and music of Ullmann.

5 pm

National Arts Centre Studio: Concert replicating concert given by Karl Ancerl in Theresienstadt by the University of Ottawa orchestra under the direction of David Currie. Involves works by J. Suk, A. Dvorak and P. Haas.

October 21

8 pm

Two outstanding films to be shown in cooperation with the embassies of Sweden and of the Netherlands; one documentary on the life and music of Ullmann in Theresienstadt called "Goethe in the Ghetto"; one documentary on Theresienstadt itself - footage from the original propaganda film shot by the Nazis with images of survivors and expert surrounding it and commenting on its contents. Possible venues being explored including War Museum.

October 22

8:30 pm

National Arts Centre Theatre: Gala Opening Night of the Emperor of Atlantis and reception including representatives of the Canadian, Austrian, Israeli and Czech governments.

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The Triumph of the Human Spirit!

October 23/24

National Arts Centre Theatre: Two evening performances and one matinee for students.

November

Follow-up with schools, voluntary groups, radio coverage in French and English on November 11

May to Sept.

Education Committee will prepare video, materials and speakers bureau on the triumph of the human spirit and creativity in the face of the despair, cruelty and death that was the Theresienstadt experience.

Carleton Board of Education, Universities, Ottawa Board of Education are being informed now of the availability of this upcoming material and programming for Fall 1996, including the possibility of a Student matinee for the Opera.

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