

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners**

**Connaught Opera**

**Adv: Jemma Grieve Combes**

**Base: Westminster**

**Amount requested: £33,660**

**Benefit: London-wide**

**Amount recommended: £20,000**

**Purpose of grant request:** To provide free professional concerts for older people in all the Greater London Boroughs.

**Background**

Connaught Opera was formed in 2003 to provide free musical concerts for older people in the Greater London area and beyond. The charity puts on around 200 concerts a year in venues such as care homes, clubs for disabled people, lunch clubs, community hubs, day care for people with dementia and hospices. A typical concert lasts one hour and is performed by two singers accompanied by a pianist. The programme features a mixture of light classics and songs from the shows with some audience participation material. Theatricality is a key element of the performances with up to six costume changes per show. The performers aim to make all people attending feel special and use the music to help older people evoke 'magic moments from the past which had special significance in their lives'. Alongside these concerts, Connaught Opera has also raised funds to provide free concerts in heritage settings for older people to enjoy a day out. This has included concerts in Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace and the Tower of London.

The organisation is run by its Board of trustees and there are no paid employees. The Chair and Treasurer are the performing soprano and baritone and the Chair also undertakes all administrative and fundraising duties. Performers take a modest fee which has been agreed with the Charity Commission.

**Funding History**

You funded Connaught Opera twice under your small grants programme in 2003 (£5k) and 2006 (£20k) and most recently in 2009 (£10k) for the costs of 35 concerts for older people across London. All grants have been satisfactorily reported on.

**Current Application**

Connaught Opera is requesting funding to address your outcomes of older Londoners aged 75 years and older living more active and healthier lives as well as to work with people living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. To do this they want to provide 33 concerts for older people per year, across all the London Boroughs. The charity has an existing database of potential venues and many have already expressed an interest in hosting a concert. Once a date has been confirmed the organisation sends the venue a brightly coloured poster to promote the concert. Whilst each concert follows a similar structure, Connaught Opera will work with each host venue to adapt the content to fit needs, a particular theme or to celebrate a special event. The performers also have the flexibility to adapt the programme on the day in response to the audience. Feedback is received from audience members

and host venue managers through emails and letters following concerts and this is shared with funders and through the Connaught Opera website.

### **Financial Observations**

Independently examined accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 show total income of £36,415 and a deficit of £830 (2% of turnover) all on restricted funds.

All income and expenditure is restricted and as such the organisation does not aim to hold any free unrestricted reserves. The organisation considers its financial risks to be low as it has no ongoing staff or premises costs and performances are only put on if income has already been secured. At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 the charity held restricted funds of £4,093 which equates to 2 months' worth of 2013/14 expenditure.

The latest forecast for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 shows a deficit of £165 on income of £24,280 all of which has been confirmed.

The budget for 2014/15 shows a breakeven position on anticipated income of £33,660, of which £1,800 (5%) had been confirmed as at 21 March 2014. Several grant applications have been made to fund the balance of £31,860, including this one to CBT today.

### **Officer's Appraisal**

This volunteer-led organisation has developed a simple model of working to bring live, professional music to older people who may otherwise have no access to cultural events. Although relatively unsophisticated, the organisation has been strengthened by capacity building support under your Improving Services programme. This enabled it to gain charitable registration, improve its financial processes and establish a risk management strategy.

The organisation has several applications pending towards its target running costs of c. £36k in 2014/15. It is possible that, subject to the outcome of these fundraising efforts, you may end up funding more than 50% of the organisation's total income which is contrary to your policy. However, the organisation does have a track record of raising between £21k and £36k income each year over the last 5 years. To minimise the risk of becoming the organisation's largest funder, funding has been recommended over two years only with each quarter's payment conditional on match funding being raised.

### **Recommendation**

**£20,000 over 2 years (2 x £10,000) for a programme of musical concerts for older people conditional on match funding being raised before each quarterly release of funding in Years 1 and 2 and subject to a satisfactory monitoring framework being agreed with the organisation.**

# The City Bridge Trust

## Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



### About your organisation

12011

Name of your organisation: <b>Connaught Opera</b>	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? <b>Westminster</b>	
Contact person: <b>Ms Maria Arakie</b>	Position: <b>Chair</b>
Website: <b>http://www.connaughtopera.com</b>	
Legal status of organisation: <b>Registered Charity</b>	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: <b>1131004</b>
When was your organisation established? <b>01/12/2003</b>	
<p><b>Aims of your organisation:</b></p> <p>Connaught Opera was started in 2003 as an unincorporated association. In 2009 we became a registered charity, No 1131004. Our main objectives and aims are to relieve the needs of people suffering from sickness, poor health and old age living in Greater London and beyond by provision of free musical concerts in hospitals, residential and nursing homes, day centres and similar institutions. All activities are undertaken for the beneficiaries as described.</p>	
<p><b>Main activities of your organisation:</b></p> <p>Connaught Opera has an on-going rolling programme to obtain funding in order to provide professional concerts for older people, free at point of delivery. The details of our charitable work can be found on our website :www.connaughtopera.com The Charity is run mainly by Maria Arakie (the Chair) who undertakes all duties including fundraising, at no salary. There are no paid staff. All funds are restricted and used solely for the beneficiaries as stated. Upon receipt of funding, concerts are placed at Centres for older people and Carers. We perform around 200 concerts a year. In addition, free concerts are arranged in Heritage settings for the elders to enjoy a day out with free concert and access to their rich cultural heritage.</p>	

## Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
0	0	5	0

## Property occupied by your organisation

Is the main property owned, leased or rented by your organisation?	If leased/rented, how long is the outstanding agreement?
<b>Owned</b>	

## Environmental Impact

City Bridge Trust wants to help voluntary sector organisations to have a positive environmental impact. Please tell us how much your organisation is already doing to have a positive environmental impact using the definitions below to help you decide.

**Getting started: We try not to be wasteful and have introduced some simple 'green actions'.**

## Grant Request

### Details of grant request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? <b>Older Londoners</b>
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? <b>People living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia having a better quality of life</b> <b>Older Londoners aged 75 years and over living more active and healthier lives</b>
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. <b>To provide free professional concerts for older people in all the Greater London Boroughs.</b>
When will the funding be required? <b>24/01/2014</b>
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: <b>£11,220</b> Year 2: <b>£11,220</b> Year 3: <b>£11,220</b> <b>Total: £33,660</b>
Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to fund it? <b>Yes. This is our tenth year of successful operation. We raise funding on a continuously rolling programme, averaging 30-35K per year.</b>
If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached? <b>Not applicable.</b>

## Summary of grant request

This grant request is to provide 33 concerts a year, for three years, to older Londoners, pan Greater London Boroughs, within the trust's areas of benefit. With many of the centres for older people losing their funding, it is a welcome and essential service that we are able to provide - namely, to take a professional concert with three musicians, into a care setting where the service users are often denied access to these events because of their circumstances. The concerts would be arranged with centres in all London Boroughs and the City of London which provide services for the elderly, carers and disabled adults, including those with memory problems and hearing or sight impairment as well as general frailty due to old age. Our experience in this field of work over the past ten years has confirmed the need and desire for our concerts, both with the services users, their friends and relatives. We work in partnership with the relevant agencies providing services for adult care.

Our artists have developed, through consultation and experience, special expertise in relation to this area of work. We have in place a constantly updated database of settings for older people. Upon receipt of a grant, the Chair contacts the centres and arranges a date, time and place, convenient and suitable for all concerned. The funders are kept updated of progress throughout the grant period. A colourful poster is sent to the venue and staff are asked to encourage their service users to attend. Advance consultation on programming promotes a positive response and affords the users access to new cultural opportunities. Our concerts cover the whole spectrum of older people, from the retired who want to enjoy active, independent and healthy lives, maintaining active and engaged minds as well as bodies, to the more fragile, isolated and disadvantaged, who would not otherwise have access to such events. These service users tend to be user led with the members determining the activities that would capture their imagination.

Most concerts are with singers Maria Arakie, Glenn Wilson and their pianist. All are well skilled in preparing material for their older audiences that is appropriate and relevant. The many elaborate and colourful costumes that Maria wears are a talking point of the concerts. Much thought goes into the planning of the one hour long concerts and every member of the audience is made to feel special and included by the artists reaching out to them as individuals. We generally perform a mixture of light classics and songs from the shows with some audience participation material. We have a multicultural focus when performing to the many different ethnic and cultural communities within London. We know that our concerts raise morale and renewed zest for life among our audiences. In many day settings, especially those run by Age UK and the Alzheimers' Society, elders from diverse backgrounds have a common meeting place and, by sharing their experience of the music, those of various ethnicities and with various illnesses, bond together with unusual cohesiveness and inclusiveness. Working with carers and their cared for in all the London Boroughs (an area of particular interest and development for our charity), we found that the concerts help to demonstrate to the carers the emotional, social and physical potential of their cared for through the stimulating power of music, ameliorating pain, evoking memories and enhanced communication. We have performed in all the London Boroughs since 2003, welcoming older people from all backgrounds to our concerts.

## Outputs and outcomes

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver? Please include no more than 5. By activities or outputs we mean the services, products or facilities you plan to deliver. If you plan to deliver work over more than one year you should include activities over the full grant period requested. Try to be specific.

**We propose 33 concerts, per year, in all the London Boroughs including the City of London. A total of 99 concerts in a three year period. The concerts are often organised around a topical 'theme' or we can provide centres with specific, time-related activities for birthdays, seasonal and special events.**

What main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve? Please include no more than 5. By differences or outcomes we mean the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that result from the work your project would deliver. These might be for individuals, families, communities or the environment.

**Provision of a cultural event within the community setting of adults, usually over 75, who because of the physical or mental frailty, or financial constraints, are no longer able to attend concerts in the community.**

**The raising of spirits and morale among elders, particularly the disadvantaged and socially excluded, who may have their physical needs catered for, but are not always stimulated mentally. We are skilled in engaging with elders with Dementia and Alzheimers' disease.**

**Stimulation and engagement with older people through music, the evoking of memories. Wearing colourful costumes, is appreciated by those with visual and auditory impairment. We aim to spread a spirit of fun and happiness in our audiences.**

**Provision of much needed-respite to carers and relief from their arduous duties of caring for loved-ones.**

**Promotion of cohesion in London's diverse communities.**

## Who will benefit?

### About your beneficiaries

How many people will benefit directly from the grant per year?

**1,155**

In which Greater London borough(s) or areas of London will your beneficiaries live?

**London-wide (100%)**

What age group(s) will benefit?

**75 and over**

What gender will beneficiaries be?

**All**

What will the ethnic grouping(s) of the beneficiaries be?

**A range of ethnic groups**

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

**71-80%**

## Finance details

Please complete using your most recent audited or independently examined accounts

Financial year ended -

Month: **March**

Year: **2013**

Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	0
Activities for generating funds	0
Investment income	0
Income from charitable activities	36,415
Other sources	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>36,415</b>

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	37,245
Governance costs	0
Cost of generating funds	0
Other	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>37,245</b>
<b>Net (Deficit)/Surplus:</b>	<b>(830)</b>
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>(830)</b>

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	0
Investments	0
Net current assets	4,093
Long-term liabilities	0
<b>*Total A</b>	<b>4,093</b>

Reserves at year end	£
Endowment funds	0
Restricted funds	4,093
Unrestricted funds	0
<b>*Total B</b>	<b>4,093</b>

\* Total A and Total B must be the same and should be taken from your balance sheet

### 9. Statutory funding

For the financial year above, what % of your income was from statutory sources?

### 10. Material changes

Describe any material changes to the organisation's activities, structure or financial position since the date of the most recent accounts:



## Funding required for the project

### What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Artists fees	27,810	27,810	27,810	<b>83,430</b>
Travel	3,605	3,605	3,605	<b>10,815</b>
Contribution to overheads/running costs	3,605	3,605	3,605	<b>10,815</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>35,020</b>	<b>35,020</b>	<b>35,020</b>	<b>105,060</b>

### What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
LB Richmond Civic Pride Fund; (2545)LB Merton(1890) RBKUT(600)	5,035	0	0	<b>5,035</b>
Tower Hill Trust (1210) Campden Wells & Hampstead Trust (945)	2,155	0	0	<b>2,155</b>
Liveries: Drapers'(2500)Merchant Taylors(5355)Mercers (2,000)	9,855	0	0	<b>9,855</b>
Quantum Care (800)SouthWest Fest (315)City & Metropolitan Welfare Charity (1500)	2,615	0	0	<b>2,615</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>19,660</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19,660</b>

### What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Bulldog Trust	10,000	8,800	0	<b>18,800</b>
Fishmongers; Salters; Sadlers ; Carmens; Grocers	9,095	0	0	<b>9,095</b>
Yapp Charitable Trust	2,835	3,060	3,060	<b>8,955</b>
RBKUT	3,150	0	0	<b>3,150</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>25,080</b>	<b>11,860</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>40,000</b>

### How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Artists fees x 3 artists per concert, 33 concerts pa	8,910	8,910	8,910	26,730
travel, car, parking, public transport@ £35 pc.	1,155	1,155	1,155	3,465
Running costs, overheads and admin	1,155	1,155	1,155	3,465
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>11,220</b>	<b>11,220</b>	<b>11,220</b>	<b>33,660</b>

### Previous funding received

Please list the funding received by your organisation from the following statutory sources during the last THREE years.

	2010 £	2011 £	2012 £
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	6,840
London Local Authorities	6,665	12,220	14,275
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	0	0	0
Other statutory bodies	0	8,400	14,900

### Previous grants received

Please list the grants received by your organisation from charitable trusts and foundations (other than City Bridge Trust) during the last THREE years. List source, years and annual amounts. Please include the 5 largest only.

Name of Funder	2010 £	2011 £	2012 £
Arts Council England	0	8,400	9,900
Transformers	3,125	13,857	4,500
LB Richmond	2,000	0	3,750
LB Merton	0	1,500	3,075
RB Kingston	3,030	750	2,850

### Declaration

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information I have provided in this application form is correct. I fully understand that City Bridge Trust has zero tolerance towards fraud and will seek to prosecute and recover funds in every instance.

Please confirm: Yes      Full Name: **Maria Arakie**

Role within                      **Chair**  
Organisation: