Fund II Foundation Grants $3 Million to Sphinx

Sphinx has received the largest grant in its history, $3 million from Fund II Foundation in support of leadership and development programs for classical musicians, arts administrators and cultural entrepreneurs of color.

Fund II Foundation’s mission is dedicated to preserving the African-American experience, safeguarding human rights, providing music education, preserving the environment while promoting the benefits of the outdoors and sustaining critical American values. The gift will bolster Sphinx’s work in the spheres of leadership, entrepreneurship, career development and professional empowerment.

“Sphinx Organization’s mission has multiple points of alignment with the purpose of Fund II Foundation. Sphinx has an exemplary record of grooming, mentoring and guiding the placement of outstanding musicians and administrators of color in some of the nation’s top music programs and orchestras.”

Linda Wilson
Fund II Foundation Executive Director

“We are humbled and deeply grateful for this incredible support from Fund II Foundation, especially at such a critical time for the arts and social justice. The impact of this grant will be immense and widespread; we predict a reach of more than 150,000 constituents through programs augmented by the funds.”

Afa Dworkin
Sphinx Organization President & Artistic Director

Join Us for the 2019/2020 SPHINX VIRTUOSI TOUR
sponsored by JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Robert F. Smith

Sphinx Virtuosi Take on 2020!

In an exciting new partnership, Sphinx Virtuosi have joined the roster of MKI Management for bookings beginning in the 2020/21 season. This will include the 2020/21 Sphinx Virtuosi National Tour: Land of the Free, highlighting American composers including underrepresented voices.

The Sphinx Virtuosi will join forces with another of the nation’s top ensembles, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, in a groundbreaking collaboration at Carnegie Hall on May 2, 2020.

Sphinx Virtuosi will be the Artist in Residence for the Junior Division of Menuhin Competition Richmond 2020, the world’s leading international competition for young violinists. The ensemble will also perform a showcase and join the Richmond Symphony Orchestra at the closing gala.

2019/2020 Tour Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06/29/19</td>
<td>New World Center, Miami Beach</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/30/19</td>
<td>School of the Arts, Winston-Salem</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/01/19</td>
<td>Civic Music Association, Des Moines</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/03/19</td>
<td>Arts and Science Council, Charlotte</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
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<td>07/04/19</td>
<td>Williams Center for the Arts, Lafayette College</td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/05/19</td>
<td>Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/06/19</td>
<td>Williams Center for the Arts, Easton, PA</td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/07/19</td>
<td>Library of Congress, Washington D.C.</td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/08/19</td>
<td>The Arts Partnership, Ordway Center</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/09/19</td>
<td>The Arts Partnership, Ordway Center</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/10/19</td>
<td>Arts and Science Council, Charlotte, NC</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/11/19</td>
<td>Williams Center for the Arts, Lafayette College</td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
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</tbody>
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See one of the nation’s most dynamic chamber ensembles in a city near you! The inspiring program, For Justice and Peace, includes a world premiere by Sphinx Competition Laureate Xavier Foley and works by Béla Bartok and Franz Schubert. There is still limited availability to book the ensemble. For more information please contact Dana@SphinxMusic.org

Photo: Nan Melville

Sphinx Virtuosi at Carnegie Hall
Friday, October 11 at 7pm

Get your tickets now to see the Sphinx Virtuosi bring For Justice and Peace to one of the world’s greatest stages! The special performance also features pianist and Sphinx Medal of Excellence recipient Damien Sneed with an excerpt from his new opera.

General admission, single tickets ($25/ticket) visit carnegiehall.org, call CarnegieCharge at 212-247-7800, or visit the Carnegie Hall Box Office at 57th Street and 7th Avenue

Group reservations ($5/ticket), please contact: Abigail@SphinxMusic.org or 313-877-9100 x715

Box seat tickets and Gala packages support Sphinx’s transformative programs. Reserve gala tickets at:

greenvelope.com/event/SphinxCarnegie19
or contact Therese Goussy at

Therese@SphinxMusic.org or 313-877-9100 x713
A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Warmest summer greetings! This is always an exciting time at Sphinx, as our Sphinx Performance Academy (SPA) summer intensive programs take center stage, and we prepare for our fall Sphinx Virtuosi tour. As you peruse this issue of the Quarter Note, I encourage you to find a SPA recital or tour stop in a city near you – we would love to see you!

A year-round program that is continuing into this summer is Sphinx LEAD, the professional empowerment program for arts leaders of color which launched earlier this year. In June, the inaugural cohort of Sphinx LEADers attended a retreat at The Juilliard School, where they enjoyed a welcome session with Juilliard President Damian Woetzel, networked with arts leaders, learned from industry professionals, attended amazing performances, and much more.

Amidst a robust season of programming, Sphinx has also continued to be a strong voice in the arts field. We were thrilled to take part in the League of American Orchestras conference: two of the three main keynotes were given by Sphinx artists, and I was pleased to have the opportunity to deliver a report during the annual plenary luncheon on the success of the National Alliance for Audition Support (which you can also read more about in this newsletter).

It is because of our supporters and friends, artistic partners and collaborators, students and musicians, that our programs are able to thrive and we have the opportunity to spread Sphinx’s mission far and wide! We can never thank you enough.

Warmly,

Afa

Afa Dworkin, Sphinx President & Artistic Director

Performers, Arts Leaders & Admins: APPLY NOW!

Applications are now open for the following Sphinx programs:

- **Sphinx Competition**: National competition for young Black and Latinx classical string players
- **Sphinx LEAD**: 2-year professional empowerment program for arts leaders of color
- **Sphinx Orchestral Partners Auditions (SOPA)**: Musicians of color audition for a panel representing several orchestras
- **SphinxConnect Fellowship**: Receive housing and/or transportation assistance to attend SphinxConnect
- **Sphinx Tank**: Arts & cultural entrepreneurs of color pitch their projects for a $25,000 grant

Submit applications via Sphinx’s GetAcceptd page by 11:59pm ET on October 15th, 2019.

https://app.getacceptd.com/sphinxmusic
This spring wrapped up the Overture school year culminating in a series of inspired performances in Detroit and Flint. Students were proud to present solo and ensemble performances for enthusiastic family and school community members.

This summer, students will continue their musical studies at a two-week Overture Summer Camp at Gompers Elementary in Detroit and at the Summer Fun in Strings Camp at the Flint Institute of Music.

$100,000 in Grants Transformed the Careers of 16 MPower Recipients

Launched to empower alumni of Sphinx programs, the MPower Artist Grants help recipients achieve their career objectives in classical music through granting competitive scholarships. The 2019 recipients’ projects illustrate the diversity of interests and goals in our alumni community. To learn more about the recipients and their projects, please visit www.SphinxMusic.org/mpower-artist-grants

SOPA and NAAS: Increasing Diversity in American Orchestras

Launched in 2017, the Sphinx Orchestral Partner Auditions program works with artistic and corporate partners to create job placement opportunities for Black and Latinx musicians within the nation's major orchestras. With support of lead sponsor Bank of America, SOPA participants – known as Bank of America Fellows – audition for a panel representing several American orchestras.

SOPA has experienced astronomical growth since its inception, now partnering with more than 30 top orchestras and securing opportunities for over 30 Bank of America Fellows with those orchestras. The success of SOPA led to the development of a groundbreaking partnership with New World Symphony and the League of American Orchestras, the National Alliance for Audition Support, in 2018. NAAS has expanded upon the concept of SOPA by providing year-round support, financial assistance, and professional development programming to musicians preparing for orchestral auditions. Together, SOPA and NAAS have transformed the lives of many musicians, including these recent wins:

**Shantanique Moore, Flute**
Won EQT OPCAAM Fellowship at Pittsburgh Symphony
Participated in SOPA and received NAAS support

**William Neri, Viola**
Won Section Viola at Central City Opera AND Assistant Principal Viola at York Symphony
Participated in SOPA and received NAAS support

**Francisco Joubert Bernard, Bassoon**
Won Second Bassoon at Louisville Orchestra
Participated in SOPA and received NAAS support

**Kalena Bovell, Conductor**
Won Assistant Conductor & Music Director of the Memphis Symphony Youth Orchestra at Memphis Symphony
Received NAAS support

**Chava Appiah, Cello**
Won a Project Inclusion Fellowship at the Grant Park Musician Festival
Participated in SOPA and received NAAS support

To date, Bank of America’s support has enabled Sphinx to grow the program by over 60% and deepen connections with our orchestra partners in communities across the country. Sphinx thanks all of the partners who make SOPA and NAAS possible, and congratulates these incredible musicians who are embarking on the next phase of their journey!

"Being awarded this grant and winning this position are reminders that persistence and hard work do eventually pay off. Thank you for your support in my development as a musician, conductor, and person."

- Kalena Bovell
Something to Ponder:

“Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations.”

Dr. Mae Jemison

SPHINX NEWS

Sphinx Performance Academy 2019

Following the most competitive audition process in the program’s history, the Sphinx Performance Academy (SPA) has invited 84 talented string players, ages 11-17, to sharpen their musical skills this summer. SPA proudly returns to the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and begins a new partnership with The Juilliard School in New York. Our students’ final recitals are free and open to guests; visit www.sphinxmusic.org/sphinx-calendar/ for more details.

Sphinx is thrilled to add three new members to its distinguished board of directors: Lynnette Dowler, President of DTE Energy Foundation; Cynthia H. Bowman, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for Bank of America; and Alex Charlton, Chairman and CEO of Carlyle Global Partners.

Registration is open for SphinxConnect 2020: Vision, Feb. 6-8, 2020 in Detroit! Visit SphinxConnect.org for details.

Sphinx President & Artistic Director Afa S. Dworkin joined the Recommendation Board of the Avery Fisher Artist Program.

Sphinx Overture teacher and SphinxConnect Liaison, Vanessa Kestner, has accepted a position as Director of A Gift for Music in Orlando, FL.

Sphinx Overture alumni Kennedi Brown, Marcus Hand, and Morgan Keels were accepted to the String Orchestra at the Flint Institute of Music.

Congratulations to Tynnetta McIntosh, Sphinx’s Board Chair, on being honored by the National Association for Black Accountants!

Send us your news and performance updates: QuarterNote@SphinxMusic.org

“The support I was awarded through a NAAS Audition Grant allowed me to surpass obstacles that impeded my journey as an orchestral musician. There are new doors that are open to me because of the aid I received from this incredible organization. Thank you, Sphinx!”

#SphinxStories

William Neri is an alum of Sphinx Orchestral Partners Auditions and recipient of a National Alliance for Audition Support grant. Empowered by the NAAS grant, William auditioned for and won a Section Viola position in Central City Opera Orchestra. Shortly after, he also won Assistant Principal Viola at York Symphony.