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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California Chamber Orchestra Awarded California Arts Council Grants

Artistic Director & Conductor
Dana Zimbric

Board of Directors
Gregory J. Prudhomme, *President*
Mark G. Margolin, *Vice President*
Craig Carper, *Secretary*
Judy Call, *Treasurer*
Michael Valentine
Al Vollbrecht

The California Arts Council has announced it is awarding two grants totaling \$11,929 to the California Chamber Orchestra (CCO). CCO will receive \$6,929 as part of the Arts Education: Exposure grant program, and \$5,000 as part of the Organizational Development grant program.

Arts Education Grant

Arts Education: Exposure grants support attendance at performances and exhibitions for students who may otherwise have limited access to these experiences. The impact of student attendance at these events is complemented by pre- and post-attendance activities.

CCO will use this year's exposure grant to partner with the Murrieta Valley Unified School District and the Academy of Ballet Arts Murrieta (ABA) to present live performances for all of the District's fourth grade students. Students and their teachers will be bused to the Gershwin Performing Arts Center at Murrieta Mesa High School where they will experience a music and dance performance of the "Carnival of the Animals" by Camille Saint-Saens.

"The California Chamber Orchestra partnered with the Academy of Ballet Arts to present the 'Carnival of the Animals' as part of our most recent concert season," said Dana Zimbric, CCO's Artistic Director and Conductor. "The performance includes a full orchestra, two pianos, and original dance choreography developed by ABA. We're so excited to be able to share this music and dance concert with Murrieta students."

CCO received a similar Exposure grant from the California Arts Council in 2017. That program funded performances of Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" for Murrieta fourth graders. Like the 2017 program, this year's program will include development of curriculum materials that teachers can use to introduce and follow up on the live performance with their students.

"The students really loved the 'Peter and the Wolf' concerts last year," Zimbric said. "Now that we'll be able to add dance to the experience, we think students will be even more engaged, especially since many of the dancers are close in age to the fourth grade students."

CCO is one of 113 grantees chosen for the Arts Education: Exposure program. The award was featured as part of a [larger announcement](#) from the California Arts Council.



“Studies have shown that projects like these music and dance performances that offer real-world, authentic interaction with the arts have a rewarding effect on learning ability,” said Nashormeh Lindo, California Arts Council Chair. “These early life experiences can spark interests, provoke thought, and build a student’s capacity for success. The path of what’s possible is widened by every opportunity to step outside the familiar.”

“We’re excited about this partnership with the California Chamber Orchestra,” said Carol Hernandez, Coordinator of Visual and Performing Arts for the Murrieta Valley Unified School District. “These programs for fourth graders integrate beautifully with our visual and performing arts curriculum and help set the stage for fourth graders who want to enter our instrumental music program in the fifth grade.”

Organizational Development Grant

The Organizational Development grant program builds nonprofit arts organizations’ capacity for success through small grants to support consulting services. The program seeks to increase access to best practices in nonprofit management to strengthen an organization’s operations, as well as to develop long and short term impacts through assessment and training.

CCO will use the Organizational Development grant to engage consultant Barbara Broderick to assist the Board in developing a strategic plan to develop the organization’s long-term vision and create a roadmap for growth. The goal is to build on CCO’s current momentum to reach new audiences and generate financial support for expanded programming.

CCO is one of 102 grantees chosen for this program. The award was featured as part of a [larger announcement](#) from the California Arts Council.

The California Arts Council recognizes the indelible value of its collaborators in a shared vision—a better world because of the arts,” said Nashormeh Lindo, California Arts Council Chair. “That vision is contingent upon building the capacity of arts organizations like the California Chamber Orchestra.”

“Since our founding in 2005, we’ve seen slow but steady growth in our programming,” said Greg Prudhomme, CCO’s President. “The last couple of years, in particular, we’ve developed new ideas and new ways to serve our community. Now we need to take the organization to its next level with a bold but realistic plan for our future.”

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The California Chamber Orchestra is a professional chamber orchestra, made up of working musicians from southwest Riverside County, San Diego, and throughout southern California. As an organization, we:

- Perform a season of four concerts as part of the Temecula Presents Classical Series at venues in Temecula and Murrieta
- Produce the Classics at The Merc chamber recital series on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month in The Merc at the Old Town Temecula Community Theater
- Offer educational programs in local schools, including assemblies, master classes and coaching for school bands and orchestras, and free and reduced price concert tickets for students and educators
- Present occasional concerts at other venues throughout the region

The mission of the California Arts Council, a state agency, is to advance California through the arts and creativity. The Council is committed to building public will and resources for the arts; fostering accessible arts initiatives that reflect contributions from all of California's diverse populations; serving as a thought leader and champion for the arts; and providing effective and relevant programs and services.

Members of the California Arts Council include: Chair Nashormeh Lindo, Vice Chair Larry Baza, Phoebe Beasley, Christopher Coppola, Juan Devis, Kathleen Gallegos, Jaime Galli, Donn K. Harris, Louise McGuinness, Steven Oliver, and Rosalind Wyman. Learn more at www.arts.ca.gov.