

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: LEISURE COMMITTEE - 11th JANUARY 2000

SUBJECT: CULTURAL GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

FROM: HEAD OF LEISURE AND AMENITIES AND HEAD OF FINANCE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 Members are asked to consider applications for grant aid received from Brass 2000; a joint application from Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra (WSO) and Leamington Spa Bach Choir (RLSBC); Leamington Spa Competitive Festival; Leamington Chamber Orchestra and Radford Road Players.

2. BALANCE OF FUNDS

2.1 The funds currently available in this budget are:

Code 560 455 1999/00	=	£7,000
Grants approved to date	=	£5,350
Balance remaining	=	£1,650

3. FINANCIAL FACTORS

3.1 The following financial factors have previously been adopted by the Leisure Committee as being relevant when considering grant requests:

1. The organisation should be non-profit making.
2. Membership fees (where appropriate) should be reasonable bearing in mind those of similar organisations.
3. The financial situation of the organisation is such that assistance is necessary.
4. The applicants are making all reasonable efforts to help themselves, and are therefore worthy of Council support.
5. The objectives of the organisation benefit the inhabitants of Warwick District.
6. The organisation's annual accounts are made available for inspection by the Head of Finance.

4. BRASS 2000

4.1 Previous Cultural Grants

1996/97 - £400

4.2 Financial Situation of the Applicant

4.2.1 The accounts for the year ended 31st March 1999 show a surplus of £35,597 and net current assets at that date of £38,150. Total expenditure for the year was £22,910. Income was £58,507 of which £10,696 was from Performances and £10,091 from members subscriptions. Also included as income is an amount of £35,388 relating to insurance receipts following flood damage to their bandroom which was destroyed in the floods of Easter 1998. As this money is earmarked for their new premises in Althorpe Street it should subsequently be disregarded from the surplus and net current assets figures shown above.

4.3 Proposed Use of Grant

4.3.1 A grant is being sought towards the costs of staging their major Millennium Concert at Symphony Hall Birmingham in February 2000 which has been planned over the last four years. The total cost of the Concert will be £15,000 which will be supported by ticket sales, sponsorship and advertising revenue. The Band have also applied for a Millennium Festival Grant which they hope will be successful.

4.4 Comment

4.4.1 This is an exciting project in which Brass 2000 have found and trained 100 young musicians who will take centre stage at a major concert for the New Millennium and is worthy of this Council's support. It is therefore suggested that a grant of £250 be awarded.

5. WARWICKSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (WSO) AND LEAMINGTON SPA BACH CHOIR (RLSBC) - JOINT APPLICATION

5.1 Previous Cultural Grants

5.1.1	<u>WSO</u>	1994/95 £500 1997/98 £400	1995/96 NIL	1996/97 £600
	<u>RLSBC</u>	1994/95 £300	1995/96 NIL	1997/98 £750

5.2 Financial Situation of the Applicants

5.2.1 WSO The accounts for the year end 31st July 1999 show a deficit of £1,394 and net current assets at that date of £3,562. The concert Account for the 1998 / 99 season incurred a deficit of £4,425 which was partly offset by Members subscriptions of £1,910 and sponsorship income of £660.

5.2.2 RLSBC The accounts for the year ended 31st August 1999 show a surplus of £4,794 and net current assets at that date of £10,705. The Current Account for the 1998/99 season achieved a surplus of £1,720 compared to a deficit the previous year of £1,450. This was largely due to reducing the costs of orchestral and artists at concert performances. In addition, the choir account made a surplus of £3,074 due mainly to members subscription income of £5,610.

5.3 Proposed Use of Grant

5.3.1 The WSO and RLSBC are each celebrating sixty years of local music membership this season and are combining for a diamond jubilee concert at All Saints Church, Leamington Spa to be held in March 2000. The cost of the joint concert is estimated to be £7,079 with income of £3,750 leaving an expected deficit of £3,329. The costs of running the concert are being shared equally by the two societies. In an effort to meet the deficit an application for a lottery Award for Local Groups under the Millennium Festival Awards Scheme is being made with a request of over £2,000 and this Council is being asked for a grant of £1,000 to be shared between the two societies.

5.4 Comment

5.4.1 This is an important musical celebration being promoted and performed by two Warwick district Music ensembles who over the past sixty years have both made outstanding contributions to the cultural and social fabric of our community, In view of the funds available within this budget the Council would not be able to meet the amount requested, and it is therefore suggested that a grant of £400 be made to assist this joint venture.

6. LEAMINGTON SPA COMPETITIVE FESTIVAL

6.1 Previous Cultural Grants

1993/94 £500 1994/95 £100 1995/96 NIL
1996/97 £500 1998/99 £100

6.2 Financial Situation of the Applicant

6.2.1 The accounts for the year ended 20th August 1999 show a surplus on the Festival of £1,309 and net current assets of that date of £9,760. Total expenditure for the year was £7,621. The Festival Benefit Concert was a great success with the surplus of £699 made on the previous year's event.

6.3 Proposed Use of Grant

6.3.1 The festival offers an opportunity for students of music, stage dancing, speech and drama to compete against each other and has 37 members paying an annual subscription of £5 to £20. The request is for a grant towards the cost of hire of halls, including the Royal Spa Centre, for the festival which is held in June each year. This year's festival attracted 1,216 entries with an estimated one third coming from this Council's area.

6.4 Comment

6.4.1 The Leamington Spa Competitive Festival is a well established event which offers opportunities for local students of the performing arts to display their skills. However, the festival appears to have no immediate financial need and so therefore it is suggested that no grant be awarded for this year.

7. LEAMINGTON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

7.1 Previous Cultural Grants

1993/94 £500 1994/95 £400 1995/96 £600
1996/97 £650 1997/98 £600

7.2 Financial Situation of the Applicant

7.2.1 The Orchestra has 40 members who are asked to contribute an annual subscription of £30. The accounts for the year ended 31st August 1999 show a deficit of £993 and net current assets at that date of £1,545. The Orchestra suffered a deficit on concerts of £1,875, offset by a general fund surplus of £882. The total cost of three concerts was £3,138 including soloists' and conductors' fees of £1,750 and room hire £757. Income from tickets and programmes was £1,263.

7.3 Proposed Use of Grant

7.3.1 A grant is sought to help with fees for professional artists and copyright music hire for the Leamington Chamber Orchestra 1999/00 concert programme which is forecasting a deficit of £975 after assuming this Council's usual level of support.

7.4 Comment

7.4.1 The Leamington Chamber Orchestra performs a wide range of symphonic and chamber music from the 16th to the 20th Century. It aims to stimulate public interest in the lesser known musical repertoire. The membership of the group is amateur and standards are maintained by employing professional and soloists and conductors. The majority of the group membership and guidance is drawn from the Warwick District area. It is suggested that a grant of £200 is awarded.

8. RADFORD ROAD PLAYERS

8.1 Previous Cultural Grants

8.1.1 Nil

8.2 Financial Situation of the Applicant

8.2.1 The group has 15 members who pay £5 per year in the performance of dramatic works with two public performances each year attracting an average audience of 75 local people. The accounts for the year ended 31st August 1999 show a surplus of £583 and net current assets at that date of £1,328.

8.3 Proposed Use of Grant

8.3.1 The group performs in Radford Road Church Hall, which is used for many other purposes, and so their stage has to be moveable. The present stage is made up of home-made blocks, heavy and difficult to store and only 12 inches high. It is hoped to purchase a moveable stage system and a trolley on which to move and store it. The system would also have the advantage of a higher stage which would improve the quality of performances and improve visibility for their

audiences. A quotation has been obtained for £3,430 and the Players are able to contribute £1,000 from their own funds and are requesting a grant of £2,500. A similar application is also being submitted to 'Awards for All' in the hope that one of the applications will be successful.

8.4 Comment

8.4.1 The Radford Road Players have already been informed that this Council does not have the funds available in its budget to meet such a grant request, and they have indicated that they would be most grateful for any amount offered towards their project. It is suggested that a grant of £250 be made to assist the players.

9. RECOMMENDED ACTION

9.1 A grant of £250 is awarded to Brass 2000.

9.2 A grant of £400 is awarded jointly to Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra and Leamington Spa Bach Choir.

9.3 It is suggested that no grant be awarded for this year's Leamington Spa Competitive Festival

9.4 A grant of £200 is awarded to Leamington Chamber Orchestra

9.5 A grant of £250 is awarded to the Radford Road Players.

Authors: Eric Gelfs (Accounting Assistant)
and Grant Lowe (Outreach Officer)

Contact Officer: Grant Lowe
Direct Line: (01926) 742706

Areas in the District Affected: All