



**PINAL COUNTY**  
WIDE OPEN OPPORTUNITY

**Proposition 202 Tribal Gaming  
Application Sponsorship/Support Form  
Requesting Pinal County serve as the Fiscal Agent/Pass Through Entity**

**Name of the Tribal Community:** Ak-Chin Indian Community

**Due date of the application to the Tribal community:** July 7, 2023

The following information will be used by Pinal County to 1) send the resolution and grant documents for the applicant to submit to the Tribal community, 2) send the funds, if awarded.

**Name of the Non-profit:** Oracle Piano Society

**Contact person/title:** Dr. Stephen Cook, Founder, Artistic Director

**Email address:** cook@oraclepianosociety.org

**Address:** P.O. Box 1564, Oracle, AZ 85623

**Project name:** Oracle Conservatory Program

**Amount being requested:** \$89,000

**Project summary:**

Oracle Piano Society seeks to solve the problem of limited access to music education in rural Pinal County by expanding its Conservatory program to serve more students. Enrolled students will receive free weekly lessons each academic year from highly-qualified music instructors. They will also attend our Chamber Music Festival and receive master classes from our world renowned Signature Series Guest Artists. They will also benefit from being apprentices to the Artistic Director where they will gain valuable nonprofit leadership experience.

**Beneficiaries:** Oracle Piano Society has targeted low-income, at-risk k-12 students from rural communities of Oracle, Mammoth, San Manuel, and the San Carlos Indian Reservation because these students do not have limited access to high-quality music instruction.

**Supervisor District:** District 1

The undersigns hereby certifies they have read and comply with the responsibilities set forth in the PINAL COUNTY TRIBAL GAMING GRANT PROGRAM Request for fiscal agent/pass through support documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director name and signature  
Dr. Stephen Cook, Founder, Artistic Director  
Oracle Piano Society

## 2023 Ak-Chin Indian Community Grant Application Cover Sheet

Name of Applicant: Oracle Piano Society	Applicant is a: <input type="checkbox"/> City/Town/County (circle) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Nonprofit Organization</u>
Mayor/Supervisor/Chairman/President: Dr. Stephen Cook, Artistic/Executive Director	
Contact Person and Title: Dr. Stephen Cook, Artistic/Executive Director	
Applicant Address (administrative office): 700 E. Kingston St.	
City: Oracle	Zip Code: 85623
Applicant Mailing Address (if different): P.O. Box 1564	
City: Oracle	Zip Code: 85623
Phone Number: 623-295-9677	Fax Number:
E-mail Address: cook@oraclepianosociety.org	
Fiscal Agent for any Applicant that is not a City, Town, or County (Special Taxing Districts/Fire Districts must have a Fiscal Agent)	
Contact Person: Heather Patel, Grants Administrator	
City/Town/County Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1348	
City: Florence	Zip Code: 85132
Phone Number: 520-866-6422	Fax Number:
E-mail Address: heather.patel@pinal.gov	

Program or Project Name: Oracle Online Conservatory
Purpose (Check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education <input type="checkbox"/> public safety <input type="checkbox"/> health <input type="checkbox"/> environment <input type="checkbox"/> promotion of commerce <input type="checkbox"/> economic and community development
Purpose of Grant (brief statement): Oracle Piano Society seeks to expand its online conservatory program to provide barrier-free music education for at-risk youth in rural Pinal County where such programs are currently unavailable. Students will receive free weekly lessons with highly qualified members of the Oracle Piano Quartet. Additionally, they will attend the annual Oracle Chamber Music Festival and Signature Series concerts where they will meet world renowned performers and participate in master classes conducted by those legendary musicians. Students will also serve as apprentices to the Artistic Director where they will gain valuable insight into arts nonprofit leadership.
Beginning and Ending Date of Program or Project: September 2023 - June 2024
Amount Requested: \$89,000                      Total Cost: \$150,687.5
Geographic Area Served: Oracle, San Manuel, Mammoth, Oro Valley, Tucson

By the execution of this Grant Application the undersigned agrees that the information contained in this Application is true, to the best of the Applicant's knowledge. The Applicant shall notify the Community if any information in this Application changes.

Signature:  Date: May 31, 2023

For the Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
Typed/Printed Name and Title: Dr. Stephen Cook, Artistic Director, Oracle Piano Society

For the Fiscal Agent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(If applicable)  
Typed/Printed Name and Title: Heather Patel, Grants Administrator

## **Ak-Chin Indian Community 2023 Prop 202 – 12% Contribution Grant Application**

### **A. Purpose of Grant.**

#### **1. Describe the proposed program, project or purchase (collectively, the “Project”).**

The Oracle Piano Society has served Oracle and its surrounding rural communities for eleven years as a performing arts/education nonprofit that owns and operates the Oracle Center for the Arts. In 2020, during the pandemic, we created an online Conservatory program to serve local, at-risk youth with weekly violin, viola, cello, and piano lessons taught by accomplished members of the Oracle Piano Quartet. The program was created using funds from our Chamber Music Festival budget, which was unable to safely operate during the pandemic. Now, that we are fully opened, we have brought back the Chamber Music Festival and seek to expand our Conservatory to serve as more students in need.

In addition to the weekly lessons they will receive during the academic year, they will also attend our annual chamber music festival and our Signature Series concerts, where they will meet face-to-face with the celebrated guest artists and, when possible, join them for master classes. Additionally, those students will gain valuable insight into nonprofit leadership by serving as apprentices to the Artistic Director. This means that they will have the opportunity to give back to their community by helping out with the festival and concert logistics. Not only will this help our students develop a sense of responsibility and ownership, it will also enable them to further immerse themselves in the world of music.

We believe that the impact of this program, when fully realized, will rival any youth music education and performance program that is currently available in this country or worldwide.

We are passionate about providing barrier-free music education for at-risk youth in our community. Funding from the Ak-Chin Indian Community would be the pivotal component needed to launch this program to its fullest potential.

#### **2. Identify the target population that will be served by the Project. (Who will benefit? How many will be served? Is there a targeted geographic location? Etc.)**

Oracle Piano Society is located in the rural community of Oracle, Arizona. In addition to directly providing concerts and educational programming for the residents of Oracle, we have targeted San Manuel, Mammoth, and the San Carlos Apache Reservation as other areas to support. Additionally, we serve the larger metropolitan areas of Tucson, Oro Valley, and Greater Phoenix. Our Conservatory program consists of local, low income k-12 rural, at-risk students who would not normally have access to high level music instruction. Our Chamber Music Festival serves those enrolled in our Conservatory program but also includes collegiate students from ASU, U of A, Concordia College, BYU, UNLV, etc. Additionally, there is an adult amateur component of the Chamber Music Festival which provides music education for lifelong learners.

All of our performance and education events are open to the public and we have a large group of loyal audience members. Attendance at our concerts averages 70 to 80 audience members with 55 of those being Season Ticket holders.

Our Chamber Music Festival student enrollees average 32 each year and we have set a target number of 20 students for enrollment in our Conservatory.

### **3. Describe the Project goals and objectives and outline a plan to meet these goals.**

Access to high-quality music education is out of reach for at-risk, low-income students living in rural Oracle and the surrounding rural communities of San Manuel, Mammoth, and the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Our goal is to solve this problem by creating world-class educational opportunities for those students.

We have currently set a goal to enroll 20 students for the 2023 - 2024 Academic year. In order to recruit students, we have reached out to the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation School District, the Oracle School District, and created a list of local students who expressed a need for music education.

We are also in the process of expanding our faculty. Our 2023 - 2024 faculty will include Dr. Luciana Gallo, cello; Dr. Gregory Hamilton, piano; Dr. Sarah Schreffler, violin; Prof. Monte Belknap, BYU Violin, Dr. Stephen Cook, piano; Dr. Christopher Norby, composition; Dr. Allyson Wuenschel, viola; Prof. Kate Hamilton, UNLV viola; Jeffrey Weisner, bassist for National Symphony Orchestra; Dr. Fanya Lin, U of A Professor of Piano, and R. Carlos Nakai, guest clinician.

We have also begun several fundraising campaigns to ensure that our project is successful.

### **4. Provide a timetable for implementation of the Project.**

Created in 2020, the Conservatory project takes place every academic year from September to May. Lessons are taught weekly throughout that period. Students also attend and volunteer at our Signature Series concerts which happen about once per month on Sundays during the September to May season. Additionally, students will attend the Chamber Music Festival which is a five-day intensive program featuring daily lessons, classes, and performances. This year's Chamber Music Festival will take place January 2-7, 2024. The number of students enrolled is directly related to the amount of financial support we receive.

## **B. Resources.**

### **1. Identify current funding sources for the Project and characterize each funding source listed as either a one-time-only or long-term funding source.**

This year, we have received enough earmarked donations from the community to enroll three students in our Conservatory program for the entire academic year. We have currently launched a campaign to raise additional funds to support more students. Our target number of students for this year is 20. In addition to donations, we receive revenue from Signature Series concert tickets and Season Tickets. We receive annual funding from the Lynne Cooper Harvey Foundation, and the Arizona Commission on the Arts has awarded us Festival Grants since 2019 and a Lifelong Learning Grant in 2023 for our Chamber Festival. Additionally, we have received funding for capital improvements from the Pinal County Board of Supervisors. We have submitted applications for additional funding from the Gila River Indian Community to support

our Chamber Music Festival, to the Arizona Commission on the Arts Creative Capacity Grant to support general operating expenses, and have partnered with Cuba Rhythm and Views to organize a cultural excursion to Cuba to support education.

**2. Identify other organizations or partners that are participating in or contributing to the Project, but which are not funding sources, and describe their roles or contributions.**

Businesses and In-Kind Donations

DeMarco's Restaurant: practice space, discounted food; Oracle Historical Society: practice space; Oracle Union Church: practice space; Way of Bean Coffee House: performance venue; Martha de Forest: practice space; Sarah and David Hardin: practice space; El Rancho Robles: discounted lodging; Cherry Valley Ranch B & B: Provided discounted lodging for performers; Biosphere 2: free tours; David Jaffrey: Loaned his bass for a student to use; Robert Hamilton: Donated books to give to students; Nonna Maria's: donated pizza and practice facilities; David Saar: keyboard donation for student practice; Jeannette Vallier: donated a food processor and an Instapot; BYU for sponsoring tuition its students; UNLV for sponsoring tuition for its students Concordia College for providing financial support for its students

Sponsors:

Diana and Ned Creighton for sponsoring the Faculty Concert; Arizona Commission on the Arts for sponsoring the Adult Amateur Program; The Community of Oracle for raising funds needed to provide critical financial aid through our Silent Auction and other fundraising efforts

Board members:

Jenine Mayer for Treasury Services and general support; Sarah Meade Hardin for concert support and transportation; Diane Clark for concert support, graphic design, and general support; Dr. Coralee Thompson for general support and meals. Dr. Stephen Cook, Artistic Director and festival administrator

Volunteers

Dr. Coralee Thompson and Kathy Blacic for organizing and preparing all meals; Rachel Opinsky: Daily driver and ride coordinator, meal prep, contact person, photos; Judy Kalish: meals; Greg Byrne: Jan 6 concert set-up/tear down; David & Sarah Hardin: transportation & Meal prep; Steve Weiss: For the amazing photographs you see in this email.; Cyn-D Turner: Meals; Betsy Randolph: Meal prep; Marjorie Cook: Meal prep; Aviva Gold: Meal prep; Mona Sturges: Meal prep; Mary Huebner: Potluck meal; Nyla Butler: Potluck meal; Sarah Meade Hardin: Potluck meal; Many others who helped with meal prep and other general services

**3. Define the Project as a new or continuing project or a purchase. Provide information about how the Project will be sustained or the purchase will be maintained after the grant funding is Exhausted.**

The Conservatory is a continuing project. The project will be maintained through vigorous fundraising campaigns, grant applications, revenue from ticket sales, and individual sponsorships. This is the central program of Oracle Piano Society and, as such, is considered a top priority when making budgeting decisions.

**4. If the Applicant organization has requested funding from any other Arizona tribe, please list: a. Pending requests made within the last eighteen (18) months, including the name of the tribe to which the request was made and a brief summary of the project for which a grant was requested.**

Oracle Piano Society has submitted an application to the Gila Riva Indian Community to fund the 2024 Oracle Chamber Music Festival, which is a component of our Conservatory. Here is the summary of the project that was submitted:

*“Every January, elite artist faculty descend upon the beautiful rural town of Oracle to create a vibrant cultural event. Students ranging from youth, collegiate, and adult-amateur participate in thrilling live performances and illuminating classes and discussions. These students experience an inclusive curriculum involving daily lessons, master classes, and seminars. The program serves the local community of Oracle and also attracts talent from across the country.*

*In 2023, because of an outpouring of community support, we were able to provide full scholarships for all youth and collegiate students who requested aid. Those students receiving aid provided volunteer support for the festival as teacher’s aids, stage hands, meal prep, etc.*

*Our ten-member faculty includes two cello instructors; Dr. Luciana Gallo, University of Nevada at Reno & Dr. Gregory Hamilton, Concordia College; two piano instructors; Dr. Stephen Cook, Artistic Director, Oracle Piano Society & Dr.”*

We will be notified of our award status in August of 2023.

**b. Funded requests made in the last five (5) years, including the name of the tribe that awarded the funding, a brief summary of the project for which the funding was awarded, and the amount of the funding received.**

We are awaiting a decision on our 2023 application to the GRIC Grant to fund the Chamber Music Festival. That was our first application for tribal support.

**C. Reports. Approved grantees must report back to the Community about the use of all grants. Outline how your organization will account for and manage the funding if selected. Describe how Project progress and results will be tracked and documented.**

Funding for the Conservatory will be tracked in the budget based on the number of students enrolled and expenses related to each student’s participation in the program. Faculty members will be paid a competitive rate per student served.

Our success is measured by students enrolled, effectiveness of programming, and progress of students. When fully funded, we will provide free lessons for the entire 2023-2024 academic year for 20 local at-risk students in rural areas. Funding will also enable us to enroll 32 students in our 2024 Chamber Music Festival, which will take place in January.

Student performance in semester-end recitals and juries will be evaluated by our highly-qualified faculty members, who are experienced performers and educators.

**D. Budget. Provide a budget, including justification, that supports the request in the Application. Provide an estimated timeline for when funds will be expended.**

Proposed Budget Expense (list each budget item)	Amount requested from Ak Chin Indian Community	Amount requested or secured from other sources	In Kind contributions	Total Budget
Instruction fees for ten Online Conservatory Faculty members (based on an enrollment of 20 students for the academic year).	\$32,640	\$0	\$0	\$32,640
Chamber Music Festival honoraria for festival instructors and performers	\$0	10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Signature Series honoraria for visiting guest artists and master class clinicians for ten concerts	\$22,222.5	\$1,777.5	\$0	\$24,000
Meals and Lodging for Chamber Music Festival	\$0	\$16,000	\$0	\$16000
Instrument Rental (Chamber Music Festival and Conservatory	\$4000	\$4000	\$100	\$4000
Piano Tuning Fees For the Year	\$0	\$1500	\$0	\$1500
T Shirts	\$0	\$700	\$0	\$700
Print & Misc	\$0	\$4000	\$1000	\$5000
Rehearsal, teaching, and practice Spaces/ Zoom fees for virtual lessons	\$0	\$1000	\$1000	\$2000
Administrative Support	\$30,137.5	\$0	\$0	\$30,137.5
Total Budget	\$120,550	\$14500	\$6,800	150687.5

**E. Additional information. Please provide any additional information about the Project or the Applicant organization that the Ak-Chin Council should know when considering the Application.**

Website with links to student performances and program information:

<https://www.oraclepianosociety.org/education>



INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: JUN 29 2013

ORACLE PIANO SOCIETY  
C/O STEPHEN COOK  
1413 E HALL ST  
TEMPE, AZ 85281

Employer Identification Number:  
45-5577678  
DLN:  
17053227321022  
Contact Person: JERRY FIERRO ID# 31119  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500  
Accounting Period Ending:  
December 31  
Public Charity Status:  
509(a)(2)  
Form 990 Required:  
Yes  
Effective Date of Exemption:  
June 26, 2012  
Contribution Deductibility:  
Yes  
Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Letter 947 (DO/CG)

ORACLE PIANO SOCIETY

We have sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Corbin  
Acting Director, Exempt Organizations

Enclosure: Publication 4221-PC