

April 15, 2020

Dear Members of the Montgomery County Council,

We are writing on behalf of Victorian Lyric Opera Company (VLOC) to express our support for level funding in fiscal year 2021 for the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County. In addition to serving as an important information resource, AHCMC's general operating support grants provide critical funding for arts organizations within Montgomery County, including VLOC.

VLOC is a 41-year-old community opera company based in Rockville and operating as a 501(C)(3) organization. One of the resident companies of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, VLOC's mission is to produce high quality performances of light operatic works and offer educational and performance opportunities for our community. VLOC also strives to make the operatic art form accessible and relevant to modern audiences and contributes to the civic life of Montgomery County. Funding from AHCMC has made that work possible and has benefited the County both culturally and economically.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Montgomery County arts organizations such as VLOC have canceled productions and face uncertainty of when we will be able to resume our activities. Additionally, we do not know if or when our patrons will feel safe in returning. With the loss of that ticket revenue, public grant support will make up an increasingly important share of our operating budgets. While the County faces extraordinary choices and expenses to respond to the effects of the pandemic, continued support for the arts will help ensure we are able to help with the recovery by resuming our performances as soon as it is safe to do so.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Helen Aberger
President
Victorian Lyric Opera Company

William Rogers
Vice President
Victorian Lyric Opera Company