

Use:

For CoFA/APDI Committee

Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS  
TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
Arts Programming & Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Initiative  
Programming Grants**

**Applicant Name:** Dr. William Gibbons

**Position:** Associate Professor

**Department/School:** School of Music

**Other Participants:** Dr. Gina Bombola

**Position:** Lecturer

**Department/School:** College of Music

**Project Title:** Opera and Popular Culture After 1900: Keynote Speaker

**Project Abstract: (less than 150 words)**

This grant will fund a keynote speaker for the Feb. 2020 conference Opera and Popular Culture After 1900. The speaker, Dr. Naomi André, author of Black Opera: History, Power, Engagement (2018), is the world's leading expert on race in opera. This grant would fund her hour-long keynote address, as well as her presence at the two-day conference, presenting numerous opportunities for her to work with our faculty and students.


**Amount Requested:** \$ 2000

**Project Date(s)\*:** Feb 7-8, 2020

**\*Funding is awarded on a fiscal year basis.**

**Authorizations:**

**School Director/ Department Chair:**

 10/7/19

**List previous College of Fine Arts, Arts Programming & Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Initiative Programming Grants received within the past three (3) years:**

Dates	Title
Dates	Title
Dates	Title

**2. Have final reports of previous grants been submitted?**

Yes       No       Project still in progress

**3. If you have or expect funding from additional sources for this project, indicate the following:**

Source	
Amount \$	Notes

Source	
Amount \$	Notes

Source	
Amount \$	Notes

**TCU College of Fine Arts Grant Application**  
**Arts Programming & Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiative**

***Opera and Popular Culture After 1900* Keynote: Dr. Naomi André**  
Faculty Applicants: Dr. William Gibbons and Dr. Gina Bombola

**Description of Event**

On 7-8 February 2020, the TCU School of Music will bring together music academics and students for a two-day conference on Opera and Popular Culture after 1900, coinciding with the TCU Opera Studio premiere of award-winning composer Evan Mack's comic opera *Yeltsin in Texas*. This conference will explore the intersections between opera and a range of popular media, including literature, theatre, film, television, and video games.

The public keynote address for the conference will be provided by Dr. Naomi André, Associate Professor at the University of Michigan in Women's Studies, Afroamerican and African Studies, and the Residential College. A prominent figure in musicology, Dr. André is the author of the influential and provocative new book *Black Opera: History, Power, Engagement* (2018) and was recently appointed scholar-in-residence with the Seattle Opera. She is also author of *Voicing Gender: Castrati, Travesti, and the Second Woman in Nineteenth-Century Italian Opera* (2006) and co-editor of the volume *Blackness in Opera* (2014). We ask for funding from the College of Fine Arts Diversity, Equity & Inclusion grant program to fund Dr. André's keynote address. Against the backdrop of crucial cultural conversations like #BlackLivesMatter and #MeToo, this event will foreground important issues of race and identity in contemporary music, and expand TCU's conversation about the role of the arts in negotiating pressing issues of equity and inclusion.

**Audiences Served**

This event will target several audience groups. First, the audience will include the conference participants, a group of scholars interested in larger cultural debates surrounding race, gender, music, and media. Next, the audience will consist of graduate and undergraduate students in the College of Fine Arts; specific tie-ins will include course assignments connected directly to the conference and keynote, as well as engagement opportunities for students across the TCU campus. We will enlist graduate students in the planning and execution of the conference, providing valuable networking opportunities and professional development for their future careers as scholars and musicians. Finally, we hope to attract community members attending *Yeltsin in Texas*, particularly those interested in DEI issues and contemporary music.

**Budget and Budget Narrative**

Dr. André has requested an honorarium of \$2000 (travel included), and we ask for DEI funds to cover these expenses partially or in full. This payment would be made in one lump sum to Dr. André at the time of her keynote address (Friday, February 7).