



June 26, 2013

Mayor Michael Dever
Lawrence City Hall
6 East 6th Street
PO Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mayor Dever,

It is my pleasure to submit this request on behalf of the University of Kansas School of Music. We are seeking partnership and support from the City of Lawrence and the Lawrence Sister City Advisory Board for the 2014 Eutiner Festspiele, one of Europe's most storied and beautiful open-air opera festivals. We respectfully submit this inquiry for \$10,000 in sponsorship support for this endeavor as a gift from the City of Lawrence to our sister city of Eutin. This gift could be in the form of student support to the School of Music or as program support to the Eutiner Festspiele. We would also welcome ideas for a matching fundraising campaign in order to gain support from businesses and community members in Lawrence who have an interest in the Eutin relationship. We make this request in light of the 25th year anniversary of the relationship in 2014 and do not plan to make such special requests in the future. It is also our hope that this will create an opportunity to do a special performance for the people of Lawrence in celebration of this relationship that would be inspired by the people and culture of Eutin.

The cities of Eutin, Germany and Lawrence, Kansas USA have been cooperating on a summer German language institute for University of Kansas students for almost 50 years. This relationship has led to extended opportunities annually for study abroad residencies for high school students of both cities. The productive relationship between Eutin and Lawrence advanced further in 1989 when formal Sister City agreements were established. The subsequent 24 years have seen a continual blossoming of cooperation and partnership that has benefitted and enriched countless individuals on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Eutiner Festspiele was established in 1951 in celebration of the life of composer Carl Maria von Weber, who was born in Eutin. It has been held every summer since in July and August in the garden of Eutin Palace in an open-air theatre on the banks of the Great Lake of Eutin and has received acclaim as one of the most beautiful outdoor stages in Germany. The music at the Eutin Festival is dedicated mainly to open-air romantic opera productions against the magnificent natural background of the manor gardens. Since its inception, over 45 different works—spanning the repertoire of the Baroque through the 20th Century—have been performed.

After near bankruptcy, 2011 marked a new chapter in the history of the festival when the Eutin Chamber of Commerce established the *New Eutin Music Festival*. A unique aspect of the *New Festival* is the partnership with the University of Kansas School of Music to bring outstanding music students and emerging young professionals to Eutin to perform in the Festival. This partnership is unlike any other cooperative professional/education cultural collaboration in the world. To date, the School of Music has sent over 100 students to participate in the Festival. To support student travel for the 2013 summer trip, the school acquired a \$50,000 one-time gift and will be working diligently to further fundraising efforts to continue our newest tradition with our sister city. Analogously, in Eutin, the Chamber of Commerce continues their earnest efforts to keep this tradition alive!

As you can imagine, a six-week full immersion in the German culture such as this is a life-altering event for our students. They not only practice and perform multiple operas entirely in German, but they live and bond with the wonderful people of Eutin, forming lasting friendships. It is both the professional and personal experience of a lifetime! It is in this spirit of lasting friendship that we seek this special partnership and support as we celebrate 25 years of our sister cities program.

I humbly submit this request for your consideration and apologize for the tardiness of its arrival with regard to your budget schedule. It was an oversight on our part, having never made such a request before and being unfamiliar with proper procedure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Walzel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "W".

Robert Walzel
Dean of the KU School of Music

RW/kms

CC: Vice Mayor Mike Amyx, City Commissioner Jeremy Farmer, City Commissioner Dr. Terry Riordan, City Commissioner Bob Schum, City Manager Dave Corliss, Assistant City Manager Cynthia Wagner, City Budget Director Casey Toomey