

ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA GUILD  
STELLA BOYLE SMITH YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION

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Name of project: Stella Boyle Smith Young Artists Competition

Name of volunteer association: Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Guild

Name and address of orchestra: Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Little Rock Arkansas

Orchestra meeting group size: 3

Presenter: George Keck, 2112 Hinson Road #23, Little Rock AR 72212  
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Approximate population: 30 high school students

Project timeline: May 2013 Planning Committee Meetings begin; competition first Saturday in March

Revenue: \$480 (24 entrants at \$20 each); \$2,250 contributed by members for awards; \$1,000 from Stella Boyle Smith Endowment

Expenses: \$2,250 for awards; \$1,000 honoraria for judges; \$100 for medallions and postage

Project goals and how they were achieved: The goal of this project is to identify and to encourage development of the talent of young Arkansas musicians achieved through offering an opportunity to perform a concerto from memory for a group of judges and to receive written critics. The winner performs annually for the spring luncheon and may be offered the opportunity to perform with the ASO.

Collaborations or partnerships: Members of the ASO serve as judges, but musicians from throughout the community also serve. A local nursery contributes plants for decorating the stage. The Stella Boyle Smith Foundation provides financial support.

Number of Volunteers required and how they were utilized: 16 members volunteer for this event. 6 members of the Guild serve on the planning committee along with the Education Director of the ASO. We have co-chairs of the event so that there is continuity for planning. On the day of the competition one Guild member organizes all the volunteers and assigns specific tasks, including checking in the contestants, conveying music to the judges, conducting entrants to the warm-up rooms, and conducting entrants to the stage. One Guild member arranges for snacks for all attendees and lunches for judges and volunteers. One member oversees the work of the judges.

What would you change: clarification of repertoire requirements, stress contestants must be present and prepared to play 20 minutes prior to their scheduled time in case there are drop-outs or if we are running ahead of schedule. Don't schedule the competition on a symphony weekend.

What plans do you have to repeat the project: This competition was held biannually for several years, but three years ago the Guild decided to hold the competition annually, resulting in greater enthusiasm and more members becoming involved; brings greater attention to the event, the symphony, and the Guild; and gives more students opportunity to participate.