

Art Strings and Tambourines

A fundraising project of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra Guild
Bloomington-Normal

ILLINOIS
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Ken Lam Music Director

of

Project Background

Faced with the need for an appealing and novel online fundraiser that could readily implemented during the pandemic, we were inspired by a painted tambourine by Edouard Manet on display at the Art Institute Chicago. The Manet tambourine had been auctioned off as a fund raiser for flood victims in the town of Murcia, Spain in 1879. Borrowing this idea, we launched a 21st century fund raiser of painted tambourines and violins with 21st century technology of an online auction.

ILLINOIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA GUILD
of
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
p r e s e n t s

**ART STRINGS
& TAMBOURINES**



"Ko" by Rick Harney
"Cheesecake Tambourine" by Jeremy Langston
"Waiting for Spring" by Reenie Bradley
"Lyrical Ko" by Sheila Lamberson
"Hey" by Doug Johnson
by Natalie Bready

ONLINE BIDDING
begins at 10 am on February 1 and ends at 9 pm on February 13 at ilsymphony.org
Complete display of artwork can be viewed at McLean County Arts Center,
601 N. East Street, Bloomington, IL now through February 13.
For information about online bidding, contact Darrin Burnett at dburnett@ilsymphony.org

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Project Description

Working with the McLean County Art Association (MCAC), a local non-profit organization that provides art exhibits, education programs, and sales of art works, we identified artists who might be willing to donate their talent to this project. Fourteen artists participated and painted a total of 11 tambourines and 5 violins.

ART STRINGS & TAMBOURINES

AUCTION BENEFITTING:
ILLINOIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Low-cost tambourines were purchased on the internet and because our symphony office had some violins in storage that were on longer playable, we included them in our fundraiser. The instruments were distributed to the artists who had volunteered for the project. A website was created using the software Bidding Owl to host the online auction and an exhibition was set up at the MCAC for live viewing of the painted instruments.

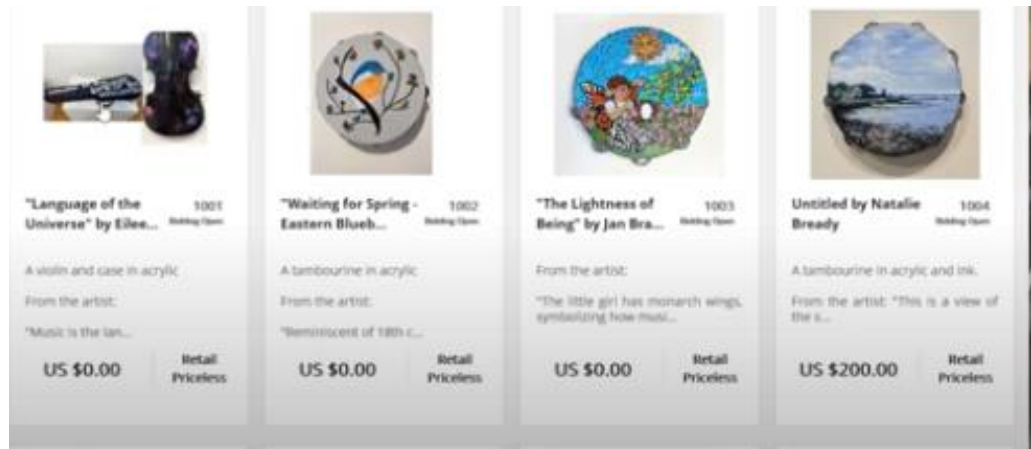
Project Timeline and Volunteer Involvement

Planning began in October 2020 with a committee of 12 volunteers. In addition to the chairperson, two volunteers created publicity consisting of social media posts, a postcard announcement of the

online auction and live exhibit, and a radio interview. Three volunteers delivered and picked up the instruments, one volunteer created the event logo and a total of five volunteers at different times were at the McLean County Art Center when winning bidders picked up their painted instruments.

The orchestra's Director of Development created online auction site.

The online auction ran from February 1 to February 14 and winning bidders picked up their instruments on a few days following the close of the auction.



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Financial Information

Expense	Amount
Tambourines	137.
Mailing to prospective artists	17.
Promotional Materials (postcards and mailing)	461.
Instrument shipping to out-of-town artists	59.
Exhibition Signage	80.
Bidding website fees	318.
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,072.
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,403.
NET INCOME	\$3,331.

Benefits

While primarily a successful fundraiser, this project helped raise awareness of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra in the community. As evidenced by the people bidding and the artists who contributed, we were successful at introducing the orchestra to new people. One of the artists was so inspired by the project and the Illinois Symphony Orchestra concert she subsequently attended that she is now doing a series of conductors-at-the-podium paintings.

Our Community

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra is at home in two cities: Bloomington-Normal, Illinois and Springfield, Illinois. Bloomington-Normal has a population of approximately 100,000. The Illinois Symphony Orchestra Guild of Bloomington-Normal has approximately 125 members.