

March 31, 2022

Dear Mr. Cohen and members of the Select Board:

I am writing this letter as a way of introducing myself and voicing my support and interest in any discussions pursuant to the potential position of an executive director for the Chelmsford Center for the Arts as well as its board of directors and the roles they do and perhaps will play. I would have attended the meeting this evening but I have a performance of an original work by the CHS Theatre Guild at the same time at the Performing Arts Center. My love for the arts is unmatched except perhaps by Ms. Susan Gates. Ms. Gates has done an excellent job with the Chelmsford Center for the Arts from its inception. I appreciate the support the town has given to this important facility. I understood the need for the Housing Authority to rent space, but do believe an arts center can be self-sustaining and profitable and that all floors of the building should be used for the sole purpose of supporting artistic endeavors. I have taught in the Chelmsford School system for 26 years and have been a resident for the last six. At this time I would like to state my support of the CCA and perhaps add a brief vision for the expansion of it and ways in which it might pay for all expenses as well as become profitable. The arts in any community bring out the best in people. A center should house many things – and should reflect and also elevate the community in which it is housed. I see an arts center as a vehicle for many events, many of which it has already been used for, including:

- artists (rental spaces, art shows, lessons)
- musicians (performances, private and group lessons)
- a dance studio (adding moving mirrors and a mylar floor – non glass mirrors) with performances
- dance competitions
- a community theatre (bringing in local theatres to the space with an eye towards popular show)
- children's theatre camp and productions
- concerts
- comedians
- murder mysteries troupe
- theme dances
- weddings, birthday parties, showers, retirements
- annual telethon (with local talent to raise money for the CCA)
- talent shows
- lectures (ted talk type thing)
- film festivals, film viewing
- community socials and more...

Ms. Gates has done so much for the center for the arts and it will be hard to replace her. I feel that an executive director could negotiate a salary based on the profitability of the CCA. I do believe a tech director is a necessary position as well to help support the above events. I would love the opportunity to explore future discussions and to encourage all to help maintain this important facility. Thank you and I look forward to hearing the replay of this evening's meeting.

Lauren Cochran  
Theatre Direct at CHS

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Chelmsford Selectboard  
Paul Cohen, Town Manager  
Chelmsford Town Offices  
50 Billerica Rd.  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

30 March 2022

Dear Chelmsford Selectboard and Mr. Cohen,

I am writing to implore you and the Chelmsford Selectboard to retain the Chelmsford Center for the Arts as a performance and creative arts space. I am a professional violinist (please see attached Bio) and have performed in the performance hall, with its magnificent Steinway concert grand piano, many times with the Thoreau Piano Trio. Currently, I maintain a vigorous teaching studio in the Seminar Room, a spacious room with a wonderful acoustic, high ceilings and baby grand piano -- perfect for teaching lessons.

The Chelmsford Center for the Arts is a gem in the heart of Chelmsford Center and the music and creative activities are the heartbeat of the CCA. This Center serves the entire community offering many varied types of cultural and musical events in an historic structure, beautifully renovated specifically for creative purposes. Office spaces can be obtained anywhere but performance venues and arts spaces such as the Chelmsford Center for the Arts are rare. To convert this beautiful building into office spaces would be a waste of a valuable, unique and highly visible community resource.

Sincerely,

Susan Jensen

## **SUSAN JENSEN, *Violinist***

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Violinist Susan Jensen is a collaborative and versatile artist, performing chamber music, opera, orchestra, solo and contemporary music across world stages and the United States. Her wide-ranging career includes experience in classical music-solo, chamber, opera and orchestral- and crosses boundaries to embrace experimental and microtonal music, historically informed styles from early baroque to modern, and forays into jazz, pop, rock, film and television.

Teaming up with several of today's leading composers, Susan has commissioned, premiered and recorded substantial and intriguing solo works, including the Grammy-nominated *Concerto for Violin with Gamelan* by Bill Alves, a virtuosic piece which marries extended violin techniques and non-western tuning systems in a traditional classical form. Her collaborations have also led to the creation of works like the Ninth String Quartet by renowned American composer Samuel Adler, premiered and recorded while she was Violin Professor at the University of Missouri and a member of the Esterhazy String Quartet.

A passionate chamber musician, Susan has been a member of several preeminent ensembles including the award-winning Southwest Chamber Music Society, the groundbreaking new music ensemble Xtet, and the internationally acclaimed DaVinci and Esterhazy String Quartets. She has traveled the globe far and wide performing internationally throughout Southern China, South America, Europe and nationally at MusikFest, White Lake Chamber Music Festival, Summer Music from Greensboro, Warebrook Festival, Microfest and the Colorado College New Music Symposium. Currently, Susan performs and tours with the Boston-based Thoreau Piano Trio, a group praised for its powerful performances and innovative programming that connect music art, poetry, dance, literature and philosophy.

Susan has also performed and recorded with opera legends Placido Domingo, Andrea Bocelli and Luciano Pavarotti, popular music icons Aerosmith, Ringo Starr, Dave Brubeck, Jeff Lynn, Brian Wilson, Bill Medley and Randy Newman as well as film and television composing greats Jerry Goldsmith, James Horner, Thomas Newman, Mark Snow, Mike Post, Hans Zimmer, Danny Elfmann, W. G. "Snuffy" Walden and Jeff Beal.

In 2017, Susan relocated to Boston where she performs and records with Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, Odyssey Opera, Orchestra of Indian Hill, Portland Symphony and Rhode Island Philharmonic. Susan also maintains a rigorous teaching schedule as faculty at Indian Hill Music and the Intensive Community Program through the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra.