

From: Erickson, Garrett
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:03 PM
To: Pilz, Pattie
Subject: FW: Musical Programming Donation - Comes with Piano

Hopefully you can present this alternative plan to the board and get an approval.

On Friday, December 15, 2023 at 05:21:11 PM CST, Erickson, Garrett <garrett.erickson@meadpl.org> wrote:

Earlier this week, I held a meeting to discuss your offer to donate a piano to the Mead Library. While we are very flattered that you thought of the library first, we are not able to accept the piano donation due to space and accessibility issues. We have limited spaces where it could be stored and those are exclusively within the large meeting rooms. When reserving those bigger meeting rooms, we generally require groups of 10 or more people to make a reservation. We have smaller meeting rooms for groups of less than 10 people, but they have limited storage.

We do like your ideas mentioned below of expanding music instruction at the library, and were particularly interested in the idea of purchasing keyboards for instruction, since they are portable and take up less space. I hope you don't take offense to our decision, it is simply one of logistics. We wanted to get you our decision as soon as possible so you can decide how you want to move forward as well.

If you are interested in getting more involved in teaching music at Mead, just let me know, and I will put you in contact with the appropriate staff.

Have a great holiday season!

Garrett Erickson
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-----Original Message-----

From

Sent: Friday, November 10, 2023 11:29 AM

To: Erickson, Garrett <garrett.erickson@meadpl.org>

Subject: Musical Programming Donation - Comes with Piano

Hi Garrett,

I heard back from librarian Molly Goltry that you had discussed my offer of a piano donation. Unfortunately, I never had the chance to ponder the issues of additional costs and responsibilities for owning a piano in a public library.

There are libraries that willingly have pianos to enhance their programming. Please read this article: <https://blog.library.in.gov/pianos-in-the-library/> You can also Google 'Pianos in Public Libraries' as I did and read several other articles.

My goal with starting piano music in the library is to enhance musical education along with adding community musical programming. For the past 3 years since my retirement, I have been a substitute teacher in Sheboygan public schools sometimes as a music teacher and often in kindergarten and other lower primary grades. Music is always part of what I want to teach young students and I think a piano in the library offers a chance to offer more musical education and programming right away in the youth library facilities on the third floor.

I'm not a great piano player but I can certainly play well enough to entertain kids for an hour.

I've attached a picture of the piano. It is a Wurlitzer spinet model with bench. Its dimensions are 37" high, 56" wide and 24" inches deep. I looked in the Rocca room earlier this week and I think this would fit nicely in the north closets when you want to store the piano out of the way. While I was there on Wednesday, I heard music in the Rocca room and apparently a dance troupe using the room for practice. Rocca room seems like ideal placement for piano in library since it is away from other quiet parts of library. I purchased the Wurlitzer at Horvat Piano Gallery on S. 12th Street about 30

years ago and instrument is in excellent shape with excellent tuning and sound. I will purchase a piano dolly <https://www.vandaking.com/schaff-spinet-console-piano-dolly.html> so that piano can easily be moved by anyone. I'll also arrange for piano tuning as soon as piano arrives.

You might be asking yourself why I am trying to donate a perfectly serviceable piano to the library. I've recently inherited my mother's grand piano and I need to make room for that. This piano needs to be moved in the next two months, and I hope to have the piano movers that bring the grand piano from Minnesota, then move the Wurlitzer to its new home. I do have a backup plan to donate this piano to a nursing home, but that has much more limited community use as compared to the library setting. I myself would like to work as accompanist for musical groups (such as the Raging Grannies) and I would like to be able to just come and practice. I do frequently play in public at various nursing homes and other community programs and happy to do so at the library especially for kids.

What can I do to make this a positive experience for Mead Public Library and its patrons? I'm happy to pay for all the initial costs associated with the move, dolly, tuning, management and scheduling system. I would also pledge \$1000 per year for 5 years to start a broader musical education and performance at the library. I finally have the means at this stage of my life to give more for community needs and wants. If the music program at the library becomes broader, my donations can become larger. I would like to see electric keyboards available with composition software as an example of ideas I have been thinking about. I also have an extra large collection of sheet music that I would donate if accepted. I checked the library's collection and I could really add to it with all sorts of musical genres.

I hope this enhanced donation is more appealing. I look forward to a chance to discuss with option with you. Please feel free to call me or email.

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