

Research Grant – Spring 2014

Faculty member: Ashby “Jack” Wilkins

Unit: School of Music

Project/Proposal Title: Banff Mountain Project – Visual Media Design

Abstract:

This grant request is to support artist residency costs for the film/video design component of the *Jack Wilkins’ Banff Mountain Project*. This project involves residencies at the Banff Creative Arts Center in Banff, Canada, to create new musical compositions with accompanying visual imagery based on environmental, cultural and musical elements distinctive to the Banff National Park area, located in the Canadian Rockies. For this residency I will be collaborating with the acclaimed Banff Centre Film and Media design team to develop the creative visual images for each composition.

Proposal:

My new artistic research endeavor, *Jack Wilkins’ Banff Mountain Project*, involves residencies at the Banff Creative Arts Center, located in the Canadian Rockies, and at Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, where I am involved in research, video/film design and the composition and recording of new music based on environmental, cultural and musical elements distinctive to the iconic Banff National Park area. The artistic vision for this project is the creation of new musical compositions and accompanying visual imagery that draw their creative inspiration from a variety Banff area scenery and history. The resulting work will be a visual/musical experience that can be presented both in live concert and recorded formats. A documentary film project about the creative processes involved in creating the music is being made as part of a separate Banff Center Project led by Dr. Michael McDonald of Grant MacEwan University. I am also collaborating with the Grant MacEwan University Contemporary Music program faculty and studios for the recording of the music.

The Banff Centre wants to include a live performance of this project as part of the 2014 Banff Mountain Film Festival, an important International Film Festival that takes place each Fall at the Banff Centre. The documentary film will be also be submitted for showing at the 2014 festival.

This project is already underway, with residencies at the Banff Centre having taken place in Spring and Fall of 2013 in support of the creation of the new musical compositions. Recording of the music will take place at Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton in May 2014, followed by a video/film design residency at the Banff Centre.

This grant request is to help support my Banff Centre Video Design Residency, a 5 day intensive residency working with the acclaimed Banff Film and Media designers.

This project is an expensive proposition. In addition to significant personal investment, I have been awarded a USF Creative Scholarship Award and a College of the Arts Research Grant for this project. Those grant funds have been used to support earlier residencies with the remaining balance to be used to support the recording studio costs and musician fees for the Edmonton recording session in May.

This project is a significant undertaking, requiring research time and significant expense to support the artist residencies, costs for the design and development of visual imagery and the recording studio and musician costs. The results will be a highly creative musical/film project, including multi media performance elements that will be “cutting edge” and offer a new type of live concert experience for audiences. Working with the Banff Creative Arts Center and the faculty and staff of Grant MacEwan University and Dr. Michael McDonald makes this project a high profile international collaboration with noted arts associations that speaks directly to the University’s International agenda and will bring notoriety to the School of Music and College of the Arts.

Banff Centre link:

<http://www.banffcentre.ca/about/>