



February 25, 2021

Dear Mr. DiScipio,

I am writing to suggest a collaboration between Bluestone Peak Academy (BPA) and the Academy of Sacred Drama (ASD), a non-profit cultural society. We are excited about your vision for BPA, and we believe we can offer an innovative arts and humanities program to complement the school's cutting-edge instruction in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

Attached to this letter, you will find a one-page overview of our proposal. We intend to create an arts and humanities department for BPA that would be a vast improvement over the disjointed programs seen from other private schools. Our eight proposed faculty members include college instructors, Ph.D. candidates, award-winning musicians, and alumni from The Juilliard School and the Ivy League.

Faculty Attributes

- master teachers and performers
- specialists in both music and humanities fields
- collaborative team from a paradigm-shifting arts organization
- college-style ensemble-in-residence program

Along with teaching classes, faculty members would rehearse and perform on campus and in nearby venues. Our concert series would become an integral part of BPA's relationship with the community and provide students with regular exposure to award-winning performers and renowned professors.

Other Program Benefits

- student-centric and project-driven performances
- provide students with regular exposure to elite performers and academics
- possible tax benefits partnering with our 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization
- connect with the community through a world-class concert and lecture series
- possible collaborations with other schools and community organizations

If this proposal interests you, we can offer you short class proposals and biographies from each of the proposed faculty members as well as a more fleshed-out overview of how the program would work as a whole. We hope that you will consider working with us to build a cutting-edge arts and humanities program for your school.

Sincerely,

Jeremy T. Rhizor
founder and artistic director
Academy of Sacred Drama

Proposal for a Classical Arts Department at Bluestone Peak Academy

Overview

A school that is cutting edge in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields deserves an equally innovative arts and humanities program. We propose a partnership between the Bluestone Peak Academy (BPA) and the Academy of Sacred Drama (ASD). This partnership offers BPA a cohesive and prestigious classical arts faculty, and it enables ASD to regularize and expand its performance calendar. We intend to create a curriculum in which the opportunities and lessons inherent in an arts-based education are catalysts for creative growth in the sciences.

Core Program Principals

- Music performance education will be primarily project-based with students taking on leadership and planning roles for concerts that connect with the greater community.
- Department educators teach academic and musical performance classes as well as rehearse and perform with colleagues on campus.
- Students have regular exposure to performances by ASD musicians and diverse guest ensembles through regular weekend performances at the school theater and nearby venues.

Educational Team

Primary Faculty (Hiring Can Occur in Two Phases if Necessary)

- Jeremy Rhizor, orchestra and oratorio director (also violin, religion, and music history)
founder of the Academy of Sacred Drama and the Sacred Drama Journal (MM Juilliard)
- Kate Bresee, instructor in philosophy and ethics (also literature, art history, and German)
Fordham University instructor and editor-in-chief of the Sacred Drama Journal (PhD Fordham, exp comp 2021)
- Nick Veltmeyer, choir director (also voice, keyboard instruments, and church music)
founder of Aureas Voces and educational programs in Nova Scotia (MM University of Toronto, exp comp 2021)
- Adam Cockerham, guitar and lute director (also theorbo, music theory, and music history)
doctoral candidate at The Juilliard School and Baroque opera assistant director (PhD Juilliard, exp comp 2021)
- Marc Bellassai, orchestra director (also art history, keyboard instruments, and Italian)
Fulbright scholar, adjunct faculty at Towson University, faculty at Mountainside Baroque (MM Indiana University)
- Chloe Fedor, chamber music director (also violin and viola)
recipient of The Juilliard School's Career Advancement Fellowship; soloist and chamber musician (MM Juilliard)
- Arnie Tanimoto, chamber music director (also viola da gamba and cello)
gold medalist of the 7th International Bach-Abel Competition, faculty at Mountainside Baroque (MM Juilliard)
- Camilla Tassi, projection/staging design (also media editing, choir director, Italian, and coding)
Research Fellow in Projection Design at the Yale School of Drama (BS Notre Dame [comp sci]; MA Dartmouth)

Regular Guests

- Masterclass Instructors, Conductors, Singers/Choreographers, and Cultural Exchange
- recruitment of Private Music Instructors coordinated by the Primary Faculty

About the Academy of Sacred Drama

ASD is an artistic community whose mission is to respond to the cultural and social needs of our day through the revival of the sacred drama genre. The organization regularly hosts performances of Baroque oratorios (mostly from around 1660–1720) along with lectures and other events. Most of our performances occur at institutions that have made a significant contribution to cultural life in the United States, such as the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Corpus Christi Church in New York City. Additionally, we create editions and English translations of oratorios that have not been performed since the Baroque era, and we publish the Sacred Drama Journal—a general readership magazine that is shifting to a model consisting of edited translations and peer-reviewed scholarly articles related to sacred drama.