Grantee Reporting Form : Entry # 165

Confirmation Code

131866-Roberts2020

Organization Name

Connecticut Summerfest, Inc.

Project Name

Kinsmen Sound Studio at Connecticut Summerfest 2021

Principal Contact Name

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Did the project take place as described in the original proposal?

The sixth season of Connecticut Summerfest took place virtually as described from June 10th–June 15th, 2021, with our Evening of Web Premieres occurring on June 18. We were thrilled to present concerts by each of our 2021 Ensembles-in-Residence: Front Porch, Hub New Music, and ZOFO. Festival composers received private lessons and attended lectures by composition faculty members Carlos Simon, Ken Steen, Chen Yi, Nina C. Young. This year's nine festival composers were Brittney Benton, Cory Brodack, Daniel De Togni, Aaron Hendrix, Grace Ann Lee, Natalie Nicholas, Annie Nikunen, Christian Quiñones, Davide Tammaro. The Excellence in the Arts Grant from the Roberts Foundation enabled us to hire Kinsmen Sound Studio to provide professional recording, editing, and livestream support for our concert series, available now on the Connecticut Summerfest YouTube channel.

Who attended or who benefited? Tell us about the audience – size, demographic make-up, etc.

We received approximately 550 views across the four concerts in our concert series during the festival and have seen an additional 150 since the festival's conclusion. Due to the virtual nature of the festival, we are only able to see limited demographic data provided by YouTube. Connecticut Summerfest's concert series is free to attend, and there are no tickets sold.

In addition to our audience members, nine festival composers and four festival auditors participated in the daytime activities of the festival, attending lectures, presenting on their own music and artistic interests, and receiving lessons from our composition faculty.

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Did the project meet the goals and objectives described in your original proposal? If so, how?

Connecticut Summerfest met or exceeded all our goals for our 2021 festival. There are three areas we use to determine the success of our festival: audience attendance, participant experience, and future collaborations.

Audience attendance: We exceeded our goal of 425 views during our concerts series, receiving approximately 550 views across the four concerts in our concert series during the festival, and an additional 150 since the festival's conclusion.

Participant experience: We received very positive feedback from festival participants, with all festival composers and auditing composers rating their experience at Connecticut Summerfest a 9 or 10 on a scale of 10.

Future collaborations: It is early to tell whether our festival composers and ensembles will continue to work together, but we are excited to continue working with all of our collaborators, and have scheduled Hub New Music to return in our 2023 season.

What were the outcomes of your evaluation procedure?

Connecticut Summerfest is thrilled with the results of our sixth season, and we have received wonderful feedback from audience members and participants. One composer participant, Cory Brodack, said of the festival: "Connecticut Summerfest's offerings and program felt like they were calibrated specifically for me and where I am in my career…I will go out and recommend this festival to every early career composer I meet, because I am confident that they will have the same invigorating experience that I did."

While virtual platforms offer a variety of positives, they also come with some difficulties. In a virtual format, rehearsals and performances are made much more challenging, and while we facilitated opportunities for composers to schedule Zoom rehearsals with their ensembles, they used these opportunities to different degrees. In the future, we may require a more specific rehearsal schedule if we continue in a virtual format.

What future plans, if appropriate, do you have for this project?

We are proud to be able to provide robust offerings to both participants and audiences alike in a virtual format, but we are hopeful to be able to have an in-person festival this year. Though the future continues to be uncertain, we are confident that the successes in our 2021 season will enable us to have another enriching virtual festival should the need arise in 2022.

Executive letter

- CTSF-2021-Report-Executive-Letter.pdf

Project budget

- CTSF-2021-Budget-vs-Actual.pdf