

INTERDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVE GRANT APPLICATION

Bringing together faculty members to enhance teaching and learning

Name, Department, and College of each faculty participant

Carey Scott Wilkerson, MFA; Department of English; College of Letters and Sciences
Dr. Michelle Debruyne; Schwob School of Music; College of the Arts

Proposed Project (Project Title)

The Ariadne Songs

(This performance would be the Southeastern premiere of this work. The first performance took place December 14, 2014 at Stony Brook University in the Staller Center for the Arts.)

Project Description (Where appropriate, please refer to enhancement of existing campus programs.)

The Ariadne Songs is an operetta/performance-art piece that explores the untold story of Ariadne and her connection to the myths of Theseus, the Minotaur, and the Labyrinth. The figure of Ariadne is central not only to these foundational narratives but perhaps also to cultural representations of women.

The performance will feature the Schwob School's Dr. Michelle Debruyne singing the soprano role of Ariadne. Her performance will be an important experience for all students in the Schwob School but particularly for those studying voice, piano, violin, and cello.

The spoken Ariadne will be performed by Ms. Charlotte Gulezian, who created the role of Ariadne in Carey Scott Wilkerson's play *Seven Dreams of Falling*. That play premiered at the Lillian Theatre in Los Angeles and was reviewed by the Huffington Post. This production will be an important experience for all English majors but particularly for those in the Literature, English Education, and Creative Writing tracks.

The text is by Carey Scott Wilkerson of the English department, based on his play *Ariadne in Exile*, written for Ms. Gulezian.

The score calls for a soprano, piano, violin, and a cello.

There is also a Greek chorus, which will be made up of students from both the Schwob School and the College of Letters and Sciences. Indeed, the entire project enhances the study of Music, Literature, Drama, and Creative Writing at Columbus State University.

Project Objectives (Goals for collaboration, including expected outcomes for faculty and student participants)

Goals:

* Stage a successful Southeastern Premiere of *The Ariadne Songs* at Columbus State University, highlighting faculty and students from the English Department/College of Letters and Sciences and the Schwob School.

* Highlight the contributions of women's voices in art and in the broader culture. The principal vocalist is a woman. The principal speaking role is performed by a woman. The composer is a woman.

* Open a sustained conversation about the status of women in our culture, underscoring the need for an informed critique of language and images both in art and in the broader culture.

* Celebrate and examine critically the centrality and unique role of women in the arts and in the broader culture.

Outcomes:

* Students and faculty will witness, first-hand, the process of making art on a large scale, using the sophisticated resources of their own university and their own experience.

* Students and faculty will have been instrumental not only in creating a work of art but investigating a cultural phenomenon.

* Students and faculty will apply their experience to in-class projects addressing its major thematic concerns: women, identity, and gender roles.

Project Timeline (Target dates for planning, project activities, and project evaluation)

July (3, 17, 31), 2015: first of three meeting with all the principles; publicity and promotions meeting; hotel reservations for guest artist Ms. Charlotte Gulezian.

August (14-28), 2015: first rehearsals with instrumentalists

September (5, 12, 19, 26), 2015: rehearsals with full cast including speaking parts, sung parts, and musicians.

September 28, 2015: Ms. Charlotte Gulezian (in the role of the speaking Ariadne) arrives from Los Angeles.

October (1, 2), 2015: Dress rehearsals

October 3, 2015 Southeastern Premiere of *The Ariadne Songs*--7:30pm in Legacy Hall at the River Center.

October 8-9, 2015: Evaluation meeting with all the principles

Individual Faculty Contributions to Project (Duties and responsibilities of each member, with corresponding stipend request, not to exceed \$1000 per participant)

Carey Scott Wilkerson, MFA: Stipend request, \$1000

* author of the libretto and the play upon which *The Ariadne Songs* is based

* design and implementation of special course materials relating to this collaboration

* coordinating principles

* coordinating rehearsals with actors and musicians

* revision of the text as needed

* revision of the score as needed (in consultation with the Dr. Michelle Debruyne and composer Angela Schwickert)

* coordinating publications and promotions with College of Letters and Sciences

* conducting evaluation of the project

Dr. Michelle Debruyn, soprano: Stipend request, \$1000

- * lead performer and interpreter of *The Ariadne Songs*
- * design and implementation of special course materials relating to this collaboration
- * auditioning musicians
- * coordinating musicians
- * coordinating rehearsals with actors and musicians
- * revision of text and score as needed in consultation with librettist Carey Scott Wilkerson and composer Angela Schwickert
- * coordinating publications and promotions with the Schwob School
- * conducting evaluation of the project

Additional Requests (event spaces, materials, guest experts) with Itemized Budget

- * Legacy Hall in the River Center is reserved for the event, and we request support for
- * high-gloss posters/flyers/one sheets/lobby cards: \$300
- * round-trip plane ticket for Ms. Charlotte Gulezian, our guest expert, the speaking role of Ariadne, and creator of the role in the original Los Angeles production: \$350
- * accommodations in the Columbus Garden Inn for rehearsals: \$600
- * honorarium for Ms. Geluzian: \$400
- * Total additional request: \$1,650