



2/5/16

To: ATOS Board of Directors  
Fr: Ken Double, President/CE  
Re: Visa and Immigration

You are aware of the matter of the visa issue for the touring artists, Richard Hills and David Gray, for upcoming performances in 2016. The rules and regulations regarding these visa applications have changed significantly over the past few years, and even more so in the last 6-8 months. As you also know, Lee Lanier has done yeoman's service in shepherding these applications through the maze of regulation over the past three years. He is to be commended for his efforts, however it has progressed to a degree that Lee is no longer able to accomplish this task without professional assistance. I offer the following items in bullet-form:

- Over a three-year period, Lee Lanier was successful in handling 10 separate petitions for artists, thus ATOS has a successful track record in these matters, although the current two involve financial need far greater than the previous ten;
- We had commitments not only to the 2016 convention, but a series of chapter concerts, and Lee and I determined we must do what we can to assist the chapters, presenters, and ATOS;
- Richard Hills steered us to Shannon Canavin of Boston, who has handled visa and immigration matters since 1999 for touring artists, and has acted on behalf of several of Richard's classical organ compatriots. She is an expert, and has performed in the highest professional manner;
- We developed a plan with her that we hoped could expedite matters, including requesting the "expedited service," available at additional cost, which provides the petitioner (ATOS via Ms. Canavin) a direct contact by phone and email to an immigration service individual;
- Knowing two separate petitions could cost anywhere from \$4,000 to \$6,000 in total, Lee and I developed a plan by which ATOS would contribute; the local organizations would contribute; and the artists would contribute. ATOS' share would reflect a small amount based on the convention appearances of the two artists; and,
- In an effort to zero-balance this cost for ATOS (outside of the share for the convention appearances), an effort would be made to find donors to assist.

Current update:

- Two donors have stepped forward at \$1,000 each;
- The artists and presenters are providing the balance of the expense in a manner that evenly spreads the remaining costs, and places each entity – ATOS, artists, local presenters – with a comparative level of financial investment; and,
- Except for the \$500 for each artist as part of the convention appearance (which can be covered as an addendum to the convention contract with WRTOS - convention officials have been aware of this matter from the start - ATOS will be reimbursed for all other expenses incurred in this endeavor.

Summary:

- ATOS was faced with a dilemma in terms of how to get two artists into the country to not only assist with WRTOS/Cleveland convention plans, but assist 10 other presenters in making these performances happen; and,
- With a sense of urgency involved, we acted to make it happen.



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By consolidating all these concert events, ATOS not only saved on expenses for itself, but for the presenting partners as well.

In this matter, the positive outcome provides ATOS with a great benefit for the convention, but even more importantly, we have stepped in to provide major support for our chapters and presenting partners who had booked these artists anticipating ATOS' help from Lee Lanier. But when circumstances forced change, we were forced to change tactics to help these chapters and presenters fulfill their contracts, and present their concerts. ATOS stepped up successfully for our chapters and members in this serious matter.