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2-22-2010/PCA

The Gainesville Chamber Orchestra

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Music Director

Thomas Rider
COO

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In memoriam

February 15, 2010

FEB 17 2010

Russ Blackburn,
City Manager
PO Box 490, St. 6
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Mr. Blackburn:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of the Gainesville Chamber Orchestra. As you know, we are one of the three professional cultural institutions (PAPI) in town. The GCO is composed of musicians from Gainesville and surrounding communities; some are UF and Santa Fe students.

We are a line item of \$5000.00 in the City of Gainesville's budget, your contribution for our 2009-2010 season. We were intending to use these funds to defray some of the costs of our annual *Pops on the Plaza* during the Spring Arts Festival in April. Due to financial constraints encountered this year, we have had to reduce our season by one concert. We are hoping that the city would allow us instead to apply that \$5000.00 to the costs of our concert in May.

Our Musical Director, Evans Hale, proposed, and the Board agreed to perform Gustav Holst's, "The Planets" as part of our May concert. It will be combined with a visual presentation prepared by NASA and Video Concepts. Each planet is associated with a movement in the orchestral piece. We are promoting "The Planets" first presentation in North Central Florida with the help of the Alachua County Astronomy Club, The Florida Museum of Natural History, UF's Department of Astronomy, NASA's Florida Space Grant Consortium, and Santa Fe College. In addition our season is being supported by grants from the Alachua Tourist Development Product and the State of Florida's Cultural Builds Florida effort. Unfortunately our grants have been smaller this year, so we need the City of Gainesville's \$5000.

It is our intent with "The Planets" to reach out beyond our 'graying' attendees, hoping to draw to our performances of classical music the many families who would not normally attend our pops concert on the plaza. It will support cultural activity in Gainesville on the 'quieter' weekend after the university's spring graduation.

Sincerely,

Thomas Rider, Chief Operating Officer