

ARIZONA HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
Application for Arizona Centennial 2012 Legacy Project Designation

Local, regional and statewide commemorations that encourage all Arizonans to reflect on our unique and authentic history, to experience the rich and diverse tapestry of our heritage, and to explore our promising futures, thus ensuring a lasting legacy.

Local: Programs that take place in one location or community.

Regional: Themes of cultural heritage or natural resources that extend beyond a single entity or enterprise, that may include multiple jurisdictions, and that may incorporate groups of significant cultural or natural resource sites. (See www.azcentennial.gov for details.)

Statewide: Publications, web sites, touring companies and similar projects that are available statewide or move around the state.

Legacy Project Criteria: This is a request for official designation as a local, regional or statewide Arizona Centennial Legacy Project. To be considered, the project must
1) accurately portray a significant aspect of Arizona history; 2) be accessible to a large number of visitors/users; 3) demonstrate collaboration in the planning; 4) produce an enduring product that will live on after 2012; 5) include an educational component; and 6) include a plan for implementation.

Attach a maximum of three pages that address the following areas, in the order listed:

1. General description of the project.
2. Describe how this project meets the Legacy Project criteria.
3. Project timeline. Give details regarding planning and implementation.
4. Describe the project location.
5. List project partners, if applicable.
6. Attach a proposed budget, showing total project cost and funding sources. Grant money may not be used to cover indirect costs.
7. Provide letters of support from project partners and sponsors. These are in addition to the three-page maximum.

Name of project: The Life and Music of Louise Lincoln Kerr - Biography Project

Scope of project: Local Regional Statewide

Applicant: Dr. Carolyn Waters Broe

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2-13-2010

Date

The Arizona Historical Advisory Commission will review the Program Committee's recommendations and make final decisions regarding Legacy Project designations. Submit application to:

Arizona Historical Advisory Commission
1700 West Washington, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Life and Music of Louise Lincoln Kerr – Biography Project

General Description of the project

“The Life and Music of Louise Lincoln Kerr” is the biography of an Arizona composer, humanitarian and philanthropist by Dr. Carolyn Waters Broe. Kerr was the co-founder of the Phoenix Symphony, the Phoenix Chamber Music Society and many other arts organizations in Arizona. Louise Kerr (1892-1977) composed over 100 works of music including fifteen symphonies, five ballets, a violin concerto and many chamber music pieces. Her Southwest Impressionist music depicts the beauty and majesty of Arizona’s landscapes. She captured the Spanish folk tunes and Native American melodies of the old West in her classically inspired symphonic pieces entitled “Arizona Profiles,” “Enchanted Mesa,” “Senior Alcalde Mayor,” “Spanish Town,” and “Indian Round Dances”. This book will be the first biography of this Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame member. The biography will be finished in time to be distributed to libraries, museum gift stores, universities, and book stores for the Arizona Centennial in 2012. There will be a book signing and concert in 2012 of Louise Kerr’s music held at the ASU Kerr Cultural Center in Scottsdale to honor the cultural legacy of this Arizona master.

Describe how this project meets the Legacy Project criteria

There is a great deal of Arizona history that is preserved in the music of Louise Lincoln Kerr. She was the daughter of John C. Lincoln who was an inventor and mining tycoon in Arizona. Louise Kerr was a cultural pioneer in her efforts to establish the arts in Phoenix. She donated large amounts of money and land to the Phoenix Symphony and the Phoenix Chamber Music Society. She also founded the Bach Madrigal Society, the Monday Morning Musical, and the Arizona Cello Society and built the Kerr School for Architectural Design and Sculpture (which was destroyed by fire in 1980). In 1959 Louise Kerr built her adobe home and studio in Scottsdale as an auditorium for chamber music. Her property was used as an artist’s colony during her life. She donated her home and studio to Arizona State University which is now the ASU Kerr Cultural Center. This site has recently received Arizona historic preservation status. We are now celebrating the 50th anniversary of this music and arts center.

This biography will become a vital tool to help bring recognition to Louise Kerr for her many achievements as a composer and arts founder. Thousands of tourists and music lovers come to ASU Kerr Cultural Center every year. The Kerr biography will give these visitors a sense for how the cultural west was won. They will be able to read about the dramatic life of a woman who was born in Cleveland, Ohio, was trained in music at the finest schools in New York, and brought her family and dreams to Arizona. Louise Kerr also helped to build the Scottsdale Center for the Arts. Her symphonic work “Arizona Profiles” was commissioned for the ground breaking in 1968. The Kerr biography will also be available for distribution to the Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Heard Museum, the Phoenix Art Museum, the Northern Arizona Art Museum and other performing arts centers, book stores, universities and libraries state wide.

Dr. Carolyn Waters Broe wrote her Doctoral dissertation on “The String Literature of Louise Lincoln Kerr” at ASU in 2001. She earned a Doctorate in Musical Arts at ASU and a Masters of Fine Arts from California State University, at Long Beach in 1984. Dr. Broe will be taking her 250 page dissertation and rewriting it as a biography. This will include expanding some chapters, deleting others, and writing new chapters. Much of the research was done between 1994 and 2001. New interviews and information will be gathered for “The Life and Music of Louise Lincoln Kerr”. Carolyn Broe will be partnering with Cyndi Suttle the General Manager of ASU Kerr Cultural Center on this project. Carolyn Broe will give a lecture demonstration recital and book signing at the Kerr Cultural Center in February of 2012 as part of the Arizona Centennial. The biography itself and the lecture demonstration will be the educational part of this project. The Kerr biography will be offered to various publishers. The finished biography will contribute an enduring piece of vital historic literature to Arizona.

Project Timeline, Planning and Implementation

March 2010 – Write grants for the project.

May and June – Begin the work of rewriting Chapter I and deleting Chapter IV.

June and July 2010 – Send Chapter I and the abstract to the University of Arizona and other publishers of historic works.

July and August 2010 – Work with ASU Archives on getting permission to reprint photographic materials. Take new photos of Kerr Cultural Center and other Kerr homes in Arizona. Get permission to include these in the biography. Ask Cyndi Suttle and ASU for permission to use professional photos of Kerr Cultural Center.

September 2010 – Collect more interviews and information for biography.

October – December 2010 – Rewrite Chapter IV on her symphonic music, and Southwest Impressionism. Write more chapters and expand some areas. Rewrite chapters II and III to match new format.

January – September 2011 – Submit more chapters to publisher for editing. Work on getting everything finished and into production.

September 2011 – January 2012 – Work with publisher on marketing strategy, distribution and placement.

March 2012 – Kerr biography book signing, lecture and demonstration recital at ASU Kerr Cultural Center as part of the Arizona Centennial Tribute.

Describe the Project Location

Louise Kerr lived in Phoenix, Scottsdale and owned a ranch in Cottonwood, Arizona. There will be information about her education and life in New York City during the early part of the 20th century. Louise Lincoln was educated at Barnard College for women, Columbia University, and the music school that later became Juilliard Conservatory of Music. She worked for Aeolian Recordings in New York proofing the early disc recordings in the glass booth before coming to Arizona. Louise Kerr and her family moved to Arizona in 1936 for the health of one of their daughters. Her home in Phoenix was the site of many impromptu music gatherings. After the death of two of her teenage daughters and her husband, Mrs. Kerr began to compose again in the 1940's.

Much of Kerr's composition was done at her ranch in Cottonwood near Flagstaff in the summers, and later at her home and studio in Scottsdale near Paradise Valley. Louise Kerr would pack up her eight children and the limousine driver would take them out to the Hopi Reservation. Kerr spent many hours carefully recording the ceremonial music of the Hopi Indians. Outsiders were rarely given this opportunity to hear these sacred ceremonies let alone record them. However, the Indians called her "Mother" and had great respect for Mrs. Kerr. The main location for this project will be in Scottsdale at the ASU Kerr Cultural Center where the artist's colony was. This is the site where Mrs. Kerr brought many of the finest chamber music ensembles and solo artists to perform including Isaac Stern, who was one of her close friends. Most of her symphonic music was written for and premiered by the ASU University Symphony. She also collaborated with the Chair of the School of Dance at ASU on her ballets. Louise Kerr was later given an honorary Doctorate from Arizona State University in 1977.

List Project Partners

Dr. Carolyn Waters Broe, the author of "The Life and Music of Louise Lincoln Kerr," will be partnering with Cyndi Suttle and ASU Kerr Cultural Center for this biographical project. We may have other partners join this project as time goes on. We will be asking the ASU Archives for their help as they have the music manuscripts and many of her remaining photographs in the Kerr Collection. We would also like to partner with the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame where Louise Kerr was inducted in 2004. We will also need to locate a good publisher for this biography. The University of Arizona publishes historic works about Arizona.

Proposed Budget

Expenses

Research, writing and editing of the biography	\$ 6,000
Art work and photography	\$ 1,000
Rental costs for ASU Kerr Cultural Center	\$ 3,000
Publishing costs and distribution	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
Total	\$ 20,000

Income

Grants	\$10,000
Sales of the book	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total	\$20,000