

COVER LETTER – to be printed on presenter’s letterhead

DATE

Name, Title
Company
Address
City, State Zip

Dear _____,

Our Name of Group/Ensemble has the opportunity to sing with Simon Estes as part of a project called ROOTS & WINGS. ROOTS & WINGS is a series of concerts touring Iowa’s 99 counties featuring Simon Estes along with local choirs and showcasing promising young artists. The event promises to be an entertaining, uplifting and memorable evening of music for our community. Our participation will allow us to be the sole presenter of ROOTS & WINGS in our county.

ROOTS & WINGS will raise funds for the Simon Estes Foundation. Enclosed is a proposal requesting sponsorship of this event by NAME OF COMPANY. The proposal provides details about the event and how the Foundation will provide scholarships to high school students in each participating county.

We are excited about Simon Estes coming to NAME OF COMMUNITY and hope you will be able to join us in supporting this event. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at XXX@XXXX.XXX or give me a call at (XXX) XXX-XXXX.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

ROOTS & WINGS

A series of concerts touring Iowa's 99 counties featuring **Simon Estes** along with local choirs and showcasing promising young artists. The concert tour is designed to raise funds for the **Simon Estes Foundation.**

Local Sponsorship Proposal

PROJECT

ROOTS & WINGS celebrates Simon Estes' connection to Iowa as a native son (ROOTS), helps Iowa high school seniors fulfill their educational aspirations by awarding college scholarships and provides performance experience to aspiring young artists through the Simon Estes Foundation (WINGS). The project takes internationally renowned opera singer Simon Estes on a concert tour of Iowa bringing him to all of Iowa's 99 counties over a three year period. Simon Estes' career has spanned over four decades, taking him around the world. His life experiences and exceptional voice are something from which young people and adults alike can gain insight and inspiration. Bringing Simon Estes to inspire students and the entire community is truly a unique opportunity.

The tour will feature Simon Estes in concert performing familiar selections from Broadway and opera as well as inspirational songs and spirituals. The concert will also include local choirs and a promising young artist chosen by Mr. Estes. In addition, Simon Estes will attend post concert events and will have recordings and books available at the concert.

Simon Estes' concert tour offers participants a unique educational experience by providing an opportunity to meet and interact with a successful professional. As part of the project, Simon Estes will give an informal talk, sharing his own unique story, the obstacles he overcame and what qualities and characteristics are needed to become successful. The occasion can provide a person with an enlightening, inspiring and even transformational moment. Whether people hear him speak about his personal experiences, sing in the choir that performs as part of the concert or simply attend the concert, they will have had exposure to someone who truly has developed and used his special talents for the benefit of others.

IMPACT

Bringing Simon Estes to NAME OF COMMUNITY will have an impact on our citizens and our community. For our students, Simon Estes will provide them with lessons from his professional experiences. For our community, he will give us a memorable and uplifting cultural event that can inspire us. The following are the educational and community benefits that will result from his visit to NAME OF COMMUNITY.

Educational Benefits

- Opportunity for school, church and community choirs to perform with Simon Estes
- An informal talk by Simon Estes followed by a question and answer session for students/church congregations/general public
- Participants learn about being successful and overcoming obstacles
- Builds confidence in participants' creativity and talent
- An inspiring and transformational educational experience for participants
- Simon Estes will donate 50% of his fee to the Simon Estes Foundation which supports college scholarships for high school seniors in each participating county as well as scholarship programs at Iowa State University and Wartburg College.

Community Benefits

- Hosting Iowa native and internationally renowned artist Simon Estes
- Raising awareness of and support for the arts in the community
- Serves as a catalyst to stimulate community projects
- Creates a shared and memorable cultural event for the community

BENEFICIARY

The Simon Estes Foundation will benefit from this concert tour of Iowa's 99 counties through Simon Estes' commitment to contribute 50% of his performance fees to the Foundation. By taking a leadership role in this fundraising effort, he serves as an example and inspiration for all of us to join him in this effort. All contributions to the Foundation will support its scholarship program and are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

In addition to Simon Estes' contributions to the Foundation, the Simon Estes Foundation is seeking the support of individuals and businesses who share the Foundation's dual mission of providing college scholarships for graduating high school students in need of financial assistance and performance experience to promising young musicians.

At each concert, information about the Foundation and its programs will be given to all individuals in attendance. The informational brochure will include a pledge form. All individuals who make contributions to the Foundation will be acknowledged and solicited for future support.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Simon Estes Foundation is committed to providing college scholarships for Iowa high school students. All high schools in the counties participating in ROOTS & WINGS will be invited to nominate up to five seniors to be named a Simon Estes Scholar. A Faculty Advisor at each high school will be responsible for identifying students. Each student must submit a 500 word essay addressing the following:

- Financial need
- A well-defined motivation to pursue a higher education
- Maturity and a sense of purpose essential to a demanding educational experience
- A personal sense of values
- How they plan to use their degree to make a difference in their community

Other requirements include:

- Documented admission to a 2 or 4 year college or university
- Demonstrated extraordinary potential
- Faced personal and/or financial challenges
- Permanent residence within the state of Iowa
- Demonstrated financial need as determined by FAFSA
- Letter of recommendation submitted by a teacher verifying students' potential and character

The Foundation Scholarship Committee will review the essays, and finalist interviews will be scheduled based on their evaluation. In reviewing scholarship applications, qualities and characteristics that are important to Simon Estes and the Foundation are integrity, honesty, enthusiasm, ambition and high moral standards. Students are not limited in their course of study, and scholarships will be awarded pending their acceptance to an accredited college or university. Information will be available at the Foundation's website www.simonestesfoundation.org.

FUNDING REQUEST

The *NAME OF PRESENTER* requests consideration by *NAME OF BUSINESS* to sponsor a ROOTS and WINGS event in the amount of *\$XXXX.00*. In recognition of the sponsorship the following benefits will be provided:

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

- Advertisement in program
- Recognition in press releases and publicity
- Recognition in any paid advertising
- Complimentary tickets
- Opportunity to host post-concert event and meet Simon Estes
- Employee recognition event
- Customer/client cultivation event
- Opportunity to welcome audience from the stage
- Association with premier cultural event
- Listing on program page

About SIMON ESTES

Internationally renowned bass-baritone Simon Estes enjoys the acclaim of audiences and critics around the globe. Since his debut with the Deutsche Oper Berlin in 1965, Simon Estes has performed with major international opera companies including the Metropolitan Opera, New York; Lyric Opera, Chicago; San Francisco Opera; La Scala, Milan; Deutsche Opera, Berlin; Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; The Washington Opera; L'Opéra de Paris; Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona; the State Operas of Hamburg, Munich, Vienna and Zurich and at the Bayreuth, Salzburg and Glyndebourne Festivals.

A noted recitalist and orchestra soloist as well, Mr. Estes has sung with the world's leading orchestras under the batons of such conductors as Gerd Albrecht, Leonard Bernstein, Gary Bertini, Myung Whun Chung, James Conlon, Sir Colin Davis, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Carlo Maria Giulini, James Levine, Lorin Maazel, Kurt Masur, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, Seiji Ozawa, Mstislav Rostropovich, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Sir Georg Solti, Horst Stein, Marcello Viotti and David Zinman.

Several performances have been historic milestones in Mr. Estes' career. His triumphant debut as Dutchman at the Bayreuth Festival in 1978 was the first appearance of any black male artist there. He was the Metropolitan Opera's first Porgy in 1985 and sang the following year with the Boston Pops at the Statue of Liberty centennial celebration. He has sung at the White House for three American Presidents and in 1990 performed at the service honoring Nelson Mandela at New York's Riverside Church and with the National Symphony under the direction of Mstislav Rostropovich for the Fourth of July Celebration in Washington. In the fall of 1994 he sang for Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu in The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Among his recording credits are works on the Auvidis, Decca, Deutsche Grammophon, Deutsche Schallplatten, EMI, Phillips Classics and Sony Classical labels.

In response to the tragic tornado and flooding of Iowa in the spring of 2008, Mr. Estes performed a benefit concert with the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Conductor Joseph Giunta in which \$38,000 was raised and Mr. Estes presented a check to the citizens of Parkersburg, Iowa. In September, 2008 Mr. Estes joined the Choir of Wartburg College in a benefit concert for the flood victims of Waverly, Iowa.

Mr. Estes' love and concern for youth is manifested in numerous scholarship organizations that bear his name. These include The Simon Estes Scholarship Fund at the University of Iowa; The Simon and Westella H. Estes Scholarship Fund at Centerville Community College, Centerville, Iowa; The Simon Estes Educational Foundation, Inc. in Tulsa, Oklahoma; The Simon Estes International Foundation, Inc., Zurich, Switzerland; The Simon Estes Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa and the Simon Estes Foundation.

Simon Estes, a native of Centerville, Iowa, is the father of three daughters, Jennifer Barbara, Lynne Ashley and Tiffany Joy. He and his wife, Ovida, now live in Iowa. Professor Estes has teaching positions at Iowa State University and Wartburg College. He also maintains an active schedule of performances and master classes. Recent Awards presented to Dr. Estes are the Distinguished Iowa Citizen Award and the Alumni Award of Iowa State University.