

Robin Stine

This is regarding my interest in affiliating with a Roma rights NGO in Italy. I am applying for a grant that would allow me to document how music can be a force for cultural change and a global force for mutual understanding. The one-year project would focus on creating and performing a musical/theatrical production with college-aged Italian students that addresses issues and prejudices that Roma young people face with the goal of increasing understanding between Roma communities and their Italian neighbors. I am currently in contact with several universities that are considering affiliating with me on the project. My reason for contacting you is to ask if you know of a Roma rights NGO that would be interested in affiliating with me on this project? I believe that the project can help Italian university students to have a greater understanding of the issues that Roma youth are facing today. This increased awareness can help to decrease stereotyping, discrimination, and misunderstanding between the two communities.

I would also like to share with you my personal and professional experience in music and working cross culturally. In July 2012 I traveled to France as the Musical Director and a performer in *La Caroline*, an original rock opera, which was performed by college students from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. This production documented the French settlement of Florida and the impact this had on the indigenous Native American population. During Summer 2012 I also traveled for two weeks in Italy and witnessed the difficulties that the Roma communities are experiencing, giving me the idea for this project. I have been performing as a professional musician/songwriter for 15 years and have traveled and performed in musical productions in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Hong Kong/China and have also traveled in the Middle East and Europe. My education includes a Bachelor's degree in Multicultural Studies, a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology, and I am currently finishing a Bachelor's degree in Jazz Music Studies at the University of North Florida.

Below are links to the Fulbright grant website, *A Gypsy's Wish* (a UK theatrical production which the Italian musical project would be based upon), and GRUBB (Gypsy Roma Urban Balkan Beats) which is an international musical/theatrical educational program in Serbia which is addressing many of the same Roma youth issues that I would like to focus on with the Fulbright grant in Italy:

Fulbright Scholars website:

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org>

Fulbright mtvU video ad:

<http://www.mtvu.com/video/?vid=724118>

A Gypsy's Wish website:

<http://gypsies-wish.romanytheatrecompany.com/index.html>

GRUBB (Serbia):

<http://grubbmusic.com>

It is my hope that this production would not only increase awareness and understanding of Roma rights and issues facing Roma youth, but that it would increase international awareness and exposure via the incredible opportunity of documenting through the Fulbright Foundation which is funded by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

(<http://us.fulbrightonline.org>). I look forward to hearing from you about the project!

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