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**VIA EMAIL**

Ms. Claudia Hommel  
4730 N Hamlin  
Chicago, IL 60625

Ma chère Claudia,

On behalf of the entire Paris Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, I wholeheartedly support your concept of a Chicago-Paris singers exchange that you will be proposing to the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs for an Individual Artists Project "Touring " grant. We are happy to see the way this worthy endeavor has evolved since you first began discussing it with the Paris committee a few years ago. We liked the concept then and we really like it now.

As I understand it, your proposal is to co-host in Paris a three-day gathering that would include an open "meet and greet jam session" led by several musical colleagues from Chicago and Paris, 6 to 8 hours of master classes for 6 to 12 singers (led by teachers from both cities), and to conclude with a public concert. The proposed dates as of now are mid-to-late September of 2017. If the exchange is successful in Paris, the second step would be to host the exchange in Chicago in early summer 2018 and to return to Paris in the autumn of 2018 with an expanded conference that would hopefully involve the University of Chicago Paris Center (a one-day seminar on Cabaret— passé, présent, futur) and a school-day program with our Sister City high school in Paris, Collège Sévigné.

This proposal dovetails nicely with the mission of the Paris Committee, namely, to strengthen the bonds between our two cities through programs, initiatives and exchanges including cultural exchanges involving artists and performers from both sides of the Atlantic. In fact, Claudia, we



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were treated to a small preview of the potential of this format at the "tour de force" event you recently organized and performed for the 20th anniversary celebrations of our sister cities. I'm referring to the cabaret dinner show that took place at the Polo Café in which you orchestrated a five-course French meal, poetry by the winners of the French poetry slam, a set by your friend the renowned Parisian performer Eric Vincent and, of course, your performance of Souvenirs of Paris. We very much appreciate that wonderful contribution to our anniversary celebrations, and we are delighted you are such an active member of the Paris committee.

While we emphatically consider you to be our chanteuse, we are also grateful for your role as the founder of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals and the years you and that organization have invested in promoting Chicago as an artistic and cultural scene for local audiences as well as the tourists who visit every year. A city's promotion of live music makes it a more dynamic and welcoming place to live, work and thrive. I understand you have been taking some of the performance and teaching skills to music theater schools in Paris. We can see how this collaboration will help to expand audiences for live music in Paris and advance the careers of participating singers as it has here in Chicago.

Through your experiences in Paris, the city of your birth, and in Chicago, your adopted home, you are serving as a leading cultural ambassador for the city of Chicago.

We would be proud to give your proposal the imprimatur of the Paris Committee. Please let us know if there's any way we can be of further assistance in helping to advance your concept of an ongoing Chicago-Paris singers exchange.

Cordially yours,



Brett A. August

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