
From: Maria Guralnik [mailto:mguralnik@cliburn.org]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2007 11:21 AM
To: OSComments
Subject: USCIS-2006-0044 re increase in O-1 processing fee

The Van Cliburn Foundation is best known for presenting the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, one of America's most prestigious cultural events on a quadrennial basis. It is my privilege and responsibility to coordinate U.S. tours for the outstanding young artists awarded as winner of each competition for the three years following each event. Assisting the Foundation's efforts to launch the careers of these often foreign-born artists are television documentaries, internet and radio programs and commercial record distributors along with hundreds of non-profit concert and orchestra presenters interested in bringing the best talent of a new generation to their audiences. In light of the proposed increase in filing fees toward O-1 visas for touring artists, **why would our government want to create additional hurdles for the many deserving young artists to connect with American audiences when it allows for so many programs/auspices/attitudes that support what we do?** And from the other perspective, why should concert-attenders be denied the opportunity to experience the best young talents of a generation - many of whom cannot be guaranteed enough income from concert engagements to cover increased travel costs - because our government seems not to be able to find a way to process paperwork (even for the many who have toured here on a regular basis) efficiently without undue harm to the recipient?

PLEASE DO NOT FURTHER INCREASE THE INCREASING POSSIBILITY THAT FOREIGN-BORN ARTISTS WILL LOSE INTEREST/HOPE IN SHARING THEIR TALENTS WITH AMERICAN AUDIENCES - ultimately eroding the base for our existences as well as that for many of our esteemed colleagues.

Thank you,

Maria Guralnik, General Manager
Van Cliburn Foundation
(817) 738-6536 X 127

From: Lisa Conlon [mailto:mozartfan1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2007 9:46 AM
To: Lisa Conlon
Subject: X-Mail from known Spam Domain NAPAMA ALERT- Visa Filing Fee Comment Deadline Approaching



NORTH AMERICAN PERFORMING
ARTS MANAGERS and AGENTS

Dear Members,

If you have not already sent your comments to USCIS board regarding the potential raising of visa filing fees, please do. The deadline for the open comment period end this coming **Monday, April 2nd**. I know I don't have to tell you that this is a very important and relevant issue that will have a significant impact on the artistic community!

Best wishes,

Laura Colby
President, NAPAMA
laurac@elsieman.org

The proposed increases are as follows:

I-129 Form (O & P Visa applications):
currently \$190, proposed \$320
I-824 Form: currently \$200, proposed \$340

Here are two links to read more about the proposed increase in fees and to find sample language:

<http://www.americanartsalliance.org/campaign/visaprocessingfeeincrease>
http://www.symphony.org/govaff/immigra/sample_comments.pdf

Your comments must be submitted **DIRECTLY** to the USCIS and received by April 2, 2007. The contact information for the USCIS is as follows:

Mailing Address:

Director
Regulatory Management Division
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 3rd
Floor

Washington, DC 20529

Email Address:

OSComments@dhs.gov

(Please include USCIS-2006-0044 in the subject line of the message)