

-----Original Message-----

From: Sara Penny [<mailto:sara.penny@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2007 12:46 AM

To: OSComments

Cc: Heather Noonan

Subject: USCIS-2006-0044

Director

Regulatory Management Division

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Department of Homeland
Security

Re: DHS No. USCIS-2006-0044

Our orchestra, the Orchestra of Southern Utah, had the privilege of having two exceptional young Chinese musicians as guest soloists two years ago. It was an inspiring performance for our isolated community and we felt that it was very beneficial. It was, however, expensive and difficult to get the visas.

We would recommend that the visa cost not rise any further or we will not be able to have any foreign musicians. In this case the communication with these young people and their school is resulting in an opportunity for our orchestra to perform in China. We plan to perform the Spanish Trail Suite complete with Paiute dancers and drummers on the program. This will also serve as an introduction to the west for Chinese who are interested in traveling to Utah and our beautiful national parks. We feel that promoting tourism is a valuable service of the arts.

This type of exchange performance is exciting for our musicians and our community. Please keep the visa fee at the current level. It is already expensive and an increase will discourage this type of musical enrichment.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sara Penny

Orchestra of Southern Utah Historian