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SUMMARY OF NEH Challenge Grant AWARDED DECEMBER 2006

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On 1 May 2006, the AMS leadership submitted an application for \$240,000 to the NEH challenge grant program, by which, with a 4:1 match, we aimed to provide \$1.2 million in support of our \$3.5 million OPUS campaign. The application, essentially crafted by members of the Publications and OPUS Committees, was entitled "Publishing Musical Scholarship in the 21st Century." The choice of publication-related activities as a focus reflects the central role of publications in the life of the AMS as well as challenges now affecting the publishing world, including increasing production costs, diversifying fields of specialization, increased pressure on younger scholars, and the advance of digital technologies.

Last week, the NEH notified us that our application was, as they put it, "a flat-out success." This happy outcome is a tribute to the long-standing and hard-working commitment of AMS members to our discipline. We are delighted, therefore, to present to the membership a summary of the strategies set forth in the application, since they will have a beneficial effect on the structure and financing of AMS awards and subventions for many years to come, not only in their own right, but also in lightening the financial burden of AMS programs as a whole. (For a full copy of the application narrative, please contact Anne Walters Robertson at awrx@uchicago.edu.)

The challenge-grant funds will be disbursed by the government over a period of three years, matched to ongoing OPUS fund-raising. The resulting sum will be allocated to one category of spending and four of investment, as follows:

- (1) **\$900,000 (yielding \$45,000 annually)** will be invested to finance a new, specific subvention program supporting the publication of first books by recent

Ph.D.s. This program, the centerpiece of the NEH challenge grant application, will be entitled **AMS 75 Publication Award for Younger Scholars** (“AMS 75 PAYS”). It follows in the path of the AMS 50 Award, established twenty-five years ago to support graduate students during the writing of their Ph.D. dissertations; and we expect that it will have a similarly positive effect on the next phase of scholarly careers. It will support innovative research; smooth the transition from graduate student to professional scholar; and bridge the gaps between research, publication, and the marketplace by raising production quality and lowering book prices.

(2) **\$125,000 (yielding \$6,250 annually)** will be invested to increase financing of the general subvention program, in the face of rising application numbers and increasing reliance on subvention support on the part of both individuals and publishers. It will provide greater funding flexibility, allowing for the support of up to two additional books per year.

(3) **\$100,000 (yielding \$5,000 annually)** will be invested to finance the *AMS Studies* series, allowing publication support for up to two books per year, and freeing the *Studies* from reliance on general publication subvention funds.

(4) **\$50,000 (yielding \$2,500 annually)** will be invested to finance a new annual prize, the **Music in American Culture Award**, honoring books that illuminate some aspect of American music and, in so doing, place that music in a rich cultural context. This prize aims to strengthen the Society's relationship to its national environment and its connection to literary communities both in and outside of the formal world of musicology.

(5) **\$25,000** will go directly toward hard costs of *OPUS* campaign fund-raising, including printing, advertising, website management, and office assistance.