

My name is Alexandria Christy; I am a homeowner and small-business owner in southeast Portland. The past days and weeks have been enormously challenging for all Oregonians and I can only imagine how stressful all your jobs are at the moment. I ask humbly for a few minutes of your time to allow me to share my story with you in the hopes of obtaining your consideration for myself and many others in my situation as you make decisions in the short and long term regarding the lives of all Oregonians.

I make my living as a freelance music teacher. I have bachelors' and masters' degrees in music education and instrumental conducting; the latter obtained at Portland State University. Teaching music has been my one and only career path since high school; unfortunately the 2008 financial recession hit in the second year of my first public school music teaching job and many jobs like mine were eliminated nationwide. I made the crucial distinction between my passion, music education; and a punishing and draining job, school teacher. Since 2011 I have been steadily and consistently building my own business and was fortunate to be able to transition to 100% self-employment in 2016. My income is derived from the following:

- Clarinet and saxophone private lessons. I have a consistent studio of roughly 30 students. It takes a great deal of time to build a studio of this size. In 2012 I earned \$5570 giving lessons. In 2019 my income for the same was \$32,000 before taxes, a fact that represents nearly a decade of grind and reputation-building. I give lessons 6 days per week, in my home in Portland as well as the Vancouver and Battle Ground, WA locations of Music World stores.
- Contracted music educator work in the Portland/Vancouver area public school systems. This includes specialist instruction for woodwind instruments as well as ensemble coaching for small groups and large bands. In the past 30 days I have worked in this capacity for the Gladstone, Reynolds, Portland, and North Clackamas school districts, as well as Ridgefield and Hockinson in Washington.
- Metropolitan Youth Symphony. I am the director of the Interlude Orchestra, in which I instruct 85 students in grades 2-9, playing string, brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. We are a "training orchestra" for the venerable Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra which has been serving the students and community of the greater Portland area since 1974.
- Substitute teaching in public schools throughout the Portland metro area and Vancouver Public Schools. This is the job that has allowed me to transition to full self-employment. I have a dedicated roster of music teachers that call me exclusively as a substitute for band, choir, orchestra, and elementary general music classes. I have been fortunate to develop relationships with these awesome students and their teachers and schools over the years. Roughly 10% of my private students I met through my work with their school bands.
- Skyview High School (Vancouver, WA) marching band. I have been the woodwind instructor as well as a member of the visual staff since 2013.
- Oregon Symphonic Band. I am the fundraising chair for Oregon's premiere community band, established 1986. For the past 8 months I have been organizing our annual fundraising gala, which was scheduled for March 14, 2020. For my efforts organizing this event I was to receive 10% of the net proceeds. The remainder represents approximately 80% of the (nonprofit, free to participate) band's general fund as well as funding our community outreach efforts to support music in public schools. The cancellation of this year's gala as well as our spring concert series has cost the band roughly \$7,000 in deposits to the gala's venue and auctioneer as well as the Newmark Theater, which is approximately 40% of the band's financial reserves.

As of two weeks ago, I had many reliable, independent income streams. Over the course of roughly 7 days I have watched almost a decade of work fall to pieces in front of my eyes. Every single one of my income sources and backup income sources are shut down indefinitely. I am in the midst of setting up virtual music lessons with as many private students as I can. At the time of this writing, I have 6 music lessons in the next week, down from an average of 25. Schools are closed; as of today I have lost 8 scheduled jobs in March and April. My youth orchestra was scheduled to perform on April 22 and May 17. Both are now off the table as we are unable to rehearse, which with the regular summer intermission means I have already seen many of those students, and they each other, for the last time.

Legislators, through no fault of my own I am experiencing a sudden and complete cessation of 95% of my income. None of my jobs qualify me for unemployment insurance. I know of dozens of people in the Portland area alone that are in my exact situation. I work this hard to be my own boss, and afford a 900 square foot house and a 2007 Nissan Pathfinder. I am begging you from my heart to remember me and those like me as you make decisions regarding how to support Oregonians as we experience unprecedented times together. We need immediate relief that will be ongoing for the duration of the crisis. The magnitude of mortgage, student loan, auto, utility, and living expenses is immediate and real; to say nothing of how I'll manage to pay my taxes a month from now. I'm self-employed; last year I paid over \$3700 in taxes, money that I will likely have to put on a credit card at 25% interest this year. The income-driven repayment plan in which my student loans are enrolled keeps my payment low enough that my debt grows every year. I now owe nearly \$15,000 more than I did after earning my master's degree in 2011. At every turn I have tried to do the right thing, make the responsible choice, and support myself in a career path that sustains me financially and emotionally. But my income is based on my doing actual work. I get paid by the job and literally all of my jobs are canceled. I wrote you this letter partially to help process my own fears, stress, and uncertainty. My hope is that you will use the powers of your respective offices to help ensure that citizens like me are not forgotten as you begin the difficult work of providing support to our communities. Thank you for reading, and for your efforts to keep us all protected during this unprecedented time.

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