

EAST EUROPEAN FOLKLIFE CENTER

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Have Questions or Feedback for Us?

We're always listening. Please email board@eefc.org with your thoughts and ideas.

No one knows us better than our community, and your thoughts are invaluable as we plan for the future.



A Note from the President

We're living through trying times—words almost fail to capture the enormity. We hope that you are taking good care under the circumstances, and look forward to the day when we can gather once more in full-blown celebration!

Cancelling camps, while necessary, also means a significant change in our financial picture, as our workshops represent 75% of the EEFC's typical annual income. Government funding and your generosity are already helping us recover. Our priority is ensuring our organization's viability through potentially difficult years ahead.

The Board, staff, and volunteers are building a robust program of online workshops and virtual camp activities to maintain community engagement. We've been heartened to receive generous donations and see strong attendance in our online workshops—your support is much appreciated at this time!

If you are able, please consider [donating funds](#) or volunteering with us in this unprecedented time of need. Together, I know that we can see our organization through.

Alex Markovic

Scholarships

Despite closing applications for Iroquois Springs early, the Scholarship Committee had already received 42 applications for the 2020 season.

We awarded 10 scholarships for Mendocino and are happy to report that all awardees are able to apply their scholarships toward Mendocino 2021.

We are very grateful to the Scholarship Committee, who steadfastly continued their work even while the forecasts for this summer became more bleak.

How effective are scholarship donations at this time?

Our top priority is to ensure that our workshops can move forward in 2021 and beyond. As such, we encourage donors to give via the General Fund, which supports our staff and operations. Without these critical funds, we cannot guarantee the future of camp.

As restricted funds, this year's and next year's scholarship funds enter our income streams **only if we are able to hold future workshops.**

However, we know many individuals will need support from our scholarship program due to the economic fallout of COVID-19 in 2021. [Click here](#) to directly support a would-be camper.

The Financial Impact

Where We Stand

- We are still recovering from significant losses in Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018. In Fiscal Year 2019, we were in the black by a narrow margin; however, this was not enough to compensate for lost revenue from previous years.
- After cancelation of both camps, our estimated operating expenses for this year are \$95,000. We are grateful that the Mendocino Woodlands and Iroquois Springs facilities have agreed to apply deposits already paid toward 2021.
- We have received forgivable loans of about \$14,000 through the Paycheck Protection Program and the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan. Thanks to Rachel MacFarlane for her diligence in obtaining these funds for the EEFC.
- Our community has already given over \$21,000 in response to our COVID-19 appeal.
- *The Susan K. Anderson Legacy Gift:* We recently received a very generous gift from Don Anderson, spouse of Susan Anderson. The EEFC Board has designated this roughly \$35,000 gift to enhance multi-year programming at both camps and replenish our Endowment fund (formerly "Nest Egg"). Both of these uses support strategic goals adopted by the Board from community input in recent years. This gift is in addition to the very generous contributions previously made to the Susan K. Anderson Scholarship Fund by Don and many of Susan's friends.

The Long-Term Consequences

- Likely fallout from the current economic situation poses a serious threat to our organization's future viability. We cannot assume a smooth ride over the next few years.
- This crisis has highlighted how even a year or two of low registrations—a potential consequence of these hard economic times—will have detrimental effects on our ability to continue offering our workshops.
- *We still need to raise \$10,000* in order to balance our operating budget for this fiscal year. If you care deeply about the EEFC and you are able to do so, please consider [donating now](#) to help us meet this year's operating costs while investing in our future stability and strategic goals.

More Ways to Help

- **Help us build our audience**

by inviting friends and family to participate in our online classes and Virtual Camps. They can enjoy a free or low-cost taste of camp from the comfort of home.

- **Volunteer your expertise and time.**

Lend your skills to one of our online classes or Virtual Camp events.

- **Have other ideas?** Contact office@eefc.org. We'd love to hear them!

Online Classes & Events

[Balkan Dance Classes with Alex Markovic](#)
Mondays 6-7:15pm Central

[Balkan Dance Classes with Michael Ginsburg](#)
Thursdays 8-9:15pm Eastern

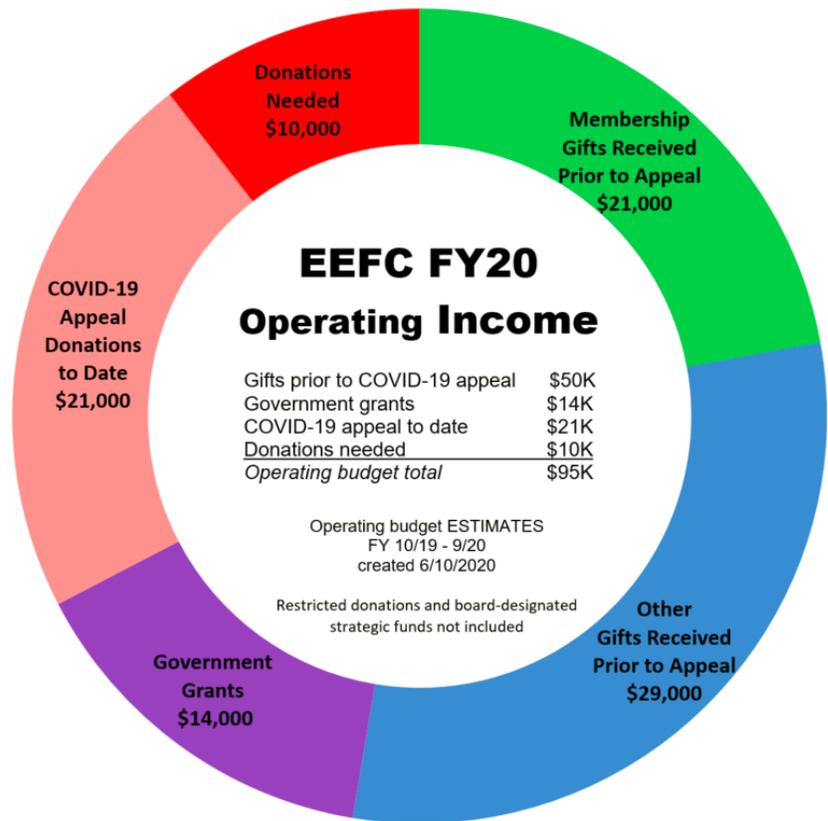
[Balkan Vocal Technique with Michele Simon](#)
Wednesdays 5-6pm Pacific

Suggested Donation:
\$15 per class

And there's more to come for our instrumentalists!

Virtual Camp: Save the date!

We're debuting our first ever totally online Balkan Camp experience **July 17-19, 2020**. More information to come!



How You Can Respond

- **If you can, now is the time to match or beat your biggest gift to date.** Each of us needs to secure our future.

- **Donate when you attend an online or Virtual Camp event.** We are excited to offer a mixture of free, sliding-scale, and flat-rate boutique events for your folk-loving pleasure. As always, we work hard to ensure that each class is an immersive, high-quality learning experience, and we need your help to support our teachers and staff.

- **Make a direct transfer from your IRA.** If you qualify or must take a Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA, you can avoid having to pay taxes on that amount and support the EEFC at the same time by making a direct transfer to the EEFC. Please consult your tax professional if you are considering making a donation from your IRA account.