October 16, 2017

The Honorable Liz Olson

221 State Office Building

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Olson,

I am writing to express my deepest thanks to you for your support of arts funding. The Rose Ensemble is fortunate this year to be the recipient of a Minnesota State Arts Board Arts Access grant. Because of this funding, we will be carrying our *American Roots* program to 12 older adult residential communities located in St. Louis, Lake, and Carlton Counties.

*American Roots* celebrates the music of different early American cultural and ethnic groups, from Acadian fiddle tunes to Appalachian ballads to Shaker songs and New England sea shanties. Designed especially for senior adults, it also engages residents in sharing stories, singing familiar songs, seated dancing, and making song requests. The program increases social engagement, stimulates memory, enables participants to practice motor skills, and enhances quality of life through the stimulation of positive emotions.

Responses we have received to the program include:

*I was very impressed that the members of the Ensemble went around and talked to the people and included them in parts of the program.*

*I wanted to send you a quick note thanking you again for facilitating today’s performance. It was absolutely wonderful! Residents were clapping and singing along, and the performers had them fully engaged, mind and spirit, for the whole hour.*

I have enclosed The Rose Ensemble’s 2017-2018 *Season of Welcome* brochure so that you can learn more about the ways in which we are serving Minnesota through the arts. Please let us know if you would like additional information about any of our programs.

Sincerely,

Jordan Sramek

Founder/Artistic and Executive Director