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With Patch Adams and Clowns, Boulder, CO, 2012

Henry Needs a Project Manager!

Hi everyone. I need help and this is not about money. I need a Project Manager or assistance finding one. I'm sending this appeal to a few of my closest friends that have known me, what I do and what I stand for, for a long time. Creating this document has been 5 years in the making. I'm 76 and for the last 5+ decades I've been travelling the earth as a **fiddling violinist** and **wandering minstrel**. I've done all I can without help. In order to complete my work here, I need help. I'm writing to friends who've demonstrated success in traversing the worlds of business and organization. I ask that you take a few minutes to consider this. Here are some important points.

- I have a goal to play the Grand Ole Opry on my 100th birthday. I have 24 years to go.
- My journey has been unique. I feel a strong urge to leave a legacy.
- I'm a generalist, not a specialist ... I don't know how to be a specialist.
- Over 5 yrs, I've compiled 25+ pages of notes about this project.
- The project at hand is enormous ... my eyes glaze over every time I try to organize it. I need help.
- I need critical feedback on what follows. What needs changing/improving before unleashing this to a larger audience?
- A Project Manager is needed who has the training and ability to manage this. This might be an individual or an organization.

What follows are my initial attempts to provide a brief overview covering most of the main points. The first one is an outline with 7 main headings: **Fiddling Violinist (FV)**. The second one is presented as **Fiddling Violinist Flat List** (no outlining) with 94 individual line items. Together, I hope you may get a vague sense of the immensity of this project. I know there are people who have the skill to manage huge projects, and of course these are called Project Managers. I do understand that every one of you are already leading very busy lives. Please help as you can. Thank you ... <<Henry>>



Relief Work After Hurricane Katrina, Slidell, LA, 2005

Fiddling Violinist (FV)

I. Introduction & Vision

- **Mission:** To preserve, share, and expand the life work of Henry the Fiddler, celebrating the artistry, education, and legacy of this Fiddling Violinist and world traveller.
- **Core Themes:** Entertainment, Education, Archives – “Serving in the present, leaving a legacy.”
- **Major goals ...**
 - **Remove lingering divisions or barriers** between the classical and popular music worlds.
 - **Henry plans to perform on the Grand Ole Opry** on his 100th birthday, May 1st, 2049.

- **Ensure FV continues** beyond Henry's lifetime as a living archive and community resource.

II. Organizational Structure

A. Board of Directors

- **Seek diverse experience** in business, legal, fundraising, education, performance, and archiving.
- **Setting priorities**, steering/guidance, financial oversight, strategic planning.
- **Inviting the world's top Fiddling Violinists** (Mark O'Connor, Darol Anger, etc)

B. HTF Society (Umbrella Organization)

- **Project Management:** Define needed expertise, administrative, musical, publishing, fundraising, non-profit management.
- **Divisions**
 - **Fiddling Violinist (FV)**
 - **"Fiddle Mobile", RV based touring**
 - **Mobile Living**
 - **Solar Living**
 - **Rainbow Family**
 - **Online Archives/Museum**
 - **Physical Archives/Museum**
- **Publishing/Sharing**
 - **online/offline**
 - **books**
 - **videos**
 - **performance/worldwide**
 - **workshops**

C. Components of FV

1. **FV Portal:** Online resource hub with music, videos, education, and archive.
 - fiddle styles, techniques, rare media
 - tune and repertoire databases
2. **Education**
 - online lessons, tutorials, workshops
 - teacher directory
 - storytelling about tunes, fiddlers, life on the road

3. **Entertainment:**

- list ~100 types of events that Henry has performed at over the last 5 decades
- touring shows
- livestreams
- house concerts
- workshops
- community events
- school programs
- videos

4. **Archives:**

- audio/video collection, scanned photos, written materials
- metadata tagging for songs, instruments, and spoken word
- integration with archive.org and other repositories

5. **Maintain lists** of living and historical FVs worldwide.

6. **Invite all FVs to leave their own legacies** through the FV portal. FV is not exclusive to Henry the Fiddler.

D. Database & Cataloging

- tune database
- fuzzy logic for duplicate and related tune names

III. Legacy Planning & Continuity

A. Archive & Museum

- Long-term preservation of Henry's work and other FVs' legacies.
- Brick-and-mortar and online presence.
- Inheritance plan for physical and digital materials.

B. Publications & Media

- Books on the FV journey and methods.
- Documentary or biographical film.
- Blog/WordPress for ongoing reflections.

C. Funding & Sustainability

- Bootstrap fundraising goal: \$100K for discovery phase.
- Long-term: \$1M+ for full execution.

- Explore grants, sponsorships, patronage (violin/fiddle shops, music industry organizations, banks, companies, foundations, friends, wealthy individuals).
- crowd funding, kickstarter, etc
- patreon
- memberships, donations

IV. Individual FV Archive

- **Open to all FVs**, alive and historical. For each FV the organization maintains:
 - **biography**
 - **tune database**
 - **licks and tricks** (alt: tricks and techniques)
 - **for living FVs**: touring, live appearances

V. Personal Philosophies & Inspiration

- **“Shooting for the stars ... hoping for the moon!”**
- **Influenced by other long lived performers**: Bob Douglas (fiddler debuted on the Grand Ole Opry @ 100), George Burns, comedian (99), Stéphane Grappelli, swing violinist (89)
- **Embrace eccentricity**: Asperger driven creativity and independence
- **Some core affirmations**:
 - I am finishing my life’s work.
 - I am asking for the help I need.
 - I am becoming what I think about.

VI. Goals, Projects, Activities

A. The Big Database

- Software and spreadsheet-based with hierarchical structure.
- Task management features for prioritization and progress tracking.

B. Video & Media Production

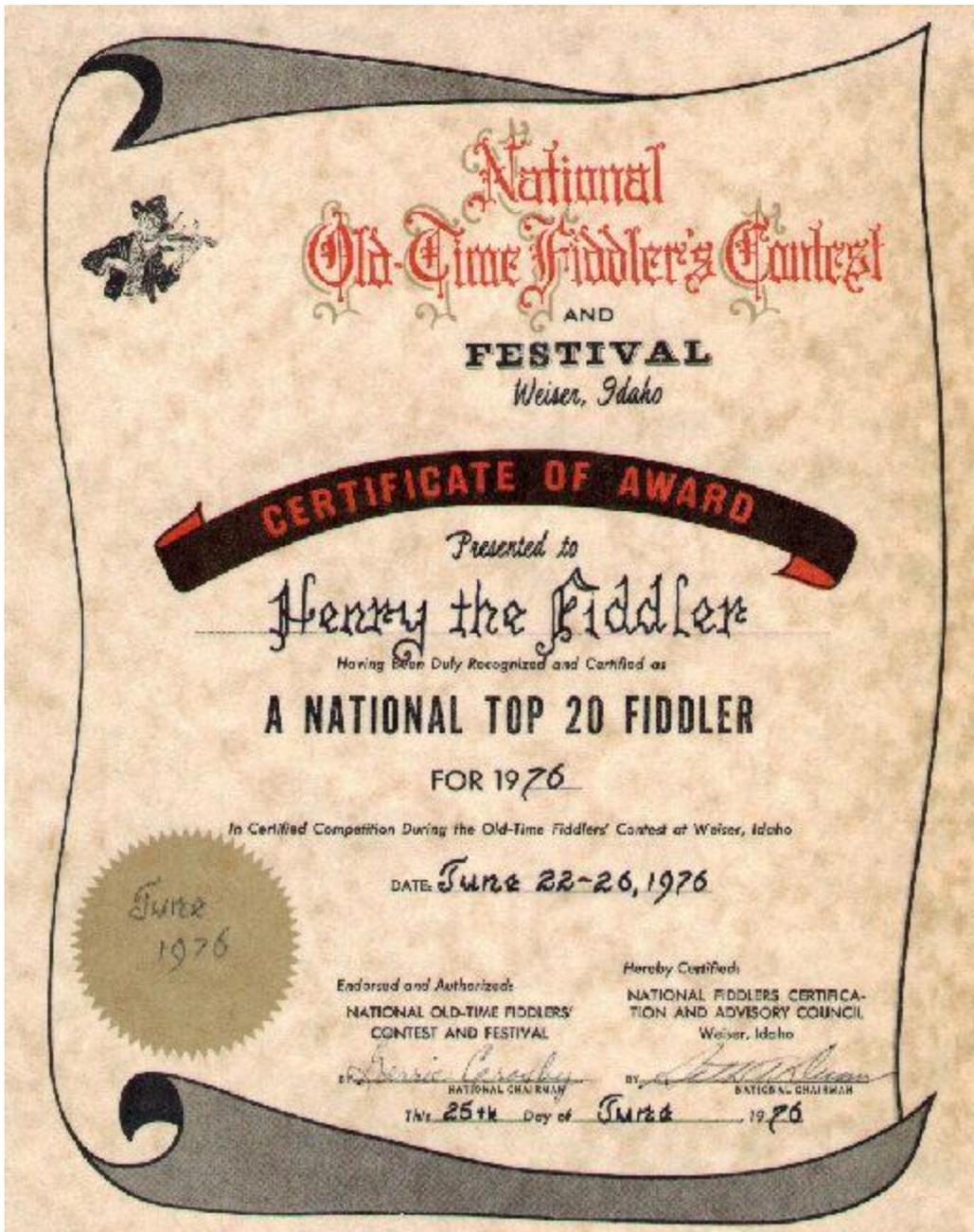
- Excerpts and best performances from livestreams and shows.
- Documentaries and behind-the-scenes content.

C. Communications & Outreach

- Regular Zooms and newsletters.
- Encourage participation, feedback, and volunteer engagement.

VII. Henry's Health, Personal Support

- **Henry is 76** with 24 years to go to reach age 100.
 - **Support of various kinds** as needed.
 - **Maintain an “emergency notification system”** contact list.
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National Top 20 Fiddler, Weiser, Idaho, 1976

Fiddling Violinist Flat List

Over the last 5 years I've been jotting notes as they came to mind. I now have ~25 pages of notes. Here I have made a list of many of the most important items. They are presented in no particular order, but I did try to get the most important/priority items up near the top.

1. "the 24 year plan"
2. prioritize: towards live audio/video while I can still play/remember
3. prioritize: focus first on what I can still do
4. prioritize: develop criteria to consider when ranking priorities
5. contact list/database: by text, email, Facebook Messenger
6. emergency notification system \\HTF inner circle list
7. project management
8. board of directors (BOD)
9. BOD: seek some high status FVs (O'Connor, Darol, etc)
10. quick start list
11. quick initial funding project, solicit a few large chunks
12. discovery phase, what do I know?, take 6 to 12 mo for full survey
13. initial names: HTF Society, Fiddling Violinist (FV)
14. Grand Ole Opry on 100th birthday, Bob Douglas did it!
15. Fiddling Violinist (FV)
16. define: who/what is a Fiddling Violinist (FV)?
17. open to all FVs, past > present > future
18. leaving a legacy
19. examples of ways FV could be used by different users
20. problem: no heirs/descendants, need an organization/entity
21. entertain > educate > archives
22. "service in the present" > "leaving a legacy"
23. archives: online & physical
24. partnering w/ archive.org for long-term hosting/preservation
25. styles: covering 30+ fiddle styles
26. all recordings on all media (audio/video)
27. rare archival audio & video (stoneman, django, etc)
28. recordings of HTF
29. recordings/composite, needing splitting and cataloging
30. invitations: who wants me/us to come to their zone/neighborhood/event?
31. invites: questionnaire, interviewing everyone
32. touring planning, based on requests, festivals, Rainbow
33. list of festivals, contests, events, gatherings, worldwide
34. full list of ~100 offerings, plus continue to offer
35. when visiting an area, sit in with local country bands
36. workshops
37. solar living consulting
38. mobile living
39. truck/camper setup/consulting
40. musical saw
41. piano, all things piano, recording, performing
42. outliner/IT

43. documenting: online, book, video, slideshow
44. bios: HTF & other FVs, document, book/video, full travelogue
45. health: diet & exercise, dietician/cook
46. health disclosure
47. Henry to 100, full life & travel support as needed
48. weight loss
49. licks and tricks database \tricks and techniques
50. tune endings (shave & a haircut)
51. tune database w/ histories of tunes, ref existing historical databases
52. tunes: multiple versions, mine and other FVs
53. software development for supporting the FV database
54. tune collections, books, websites, YouTube (Portland Collection, etc)
55. database: cross ref for alt names, spellings
56. database: ratings system for quality of all recordings
57. database design: consult w/ music librarians (Dewey/LOC)
58. set lists for all kinds of shows & events
59. costuming and attire for all show, events, occasions
60. "Fiddle Mobile", RV based touring
61. Rainbow Family
62. lists of living and historical FVs worldwide.
63. fundraising, sponsors, patrons, grant writing
64. Patreon
65. crowd funding, kickstarter, gofundme, etc
66. 501(c)3, organization for fundraising
67. membership tier structure, like NPR, "at the xyz level ..."
68. logo (see what ChatGPT came up with)
69. Asperger, pride list, great company! (Einstein etc)
70. generalist
71. ";enigma", folk hero, cartoon character, list
72. impossible goals > shooting for the stars
73. travelling fiddle circus/camp, entourage/caravan/community
74. big band/show for events, festivals, HTF show, group show
75. continue travel worldwide
76. willing (wills), both mine and other FVs
77. 3 options: support, inherit, both
78. robot/crawler, periodic checks for broken links
79. what FV is not > off ramps to other sites, resources
80. off ramps for contest/texas style, bluegrass, etc
81. legal department to review/handle all copyright issues
82. desiring all feedback: especially the negative, hard to express
83. music theory & improvising
84. HTF to be an employee of the organization

85. assets (vehicles, instruments, equipment) owned by organization
 86. "stump the fiddler" in shows and workshops
 87. students to bring recordings they need breaks & licks for
 88. strolling violinist, offer service, training, repertoire
 89. "Era's Tour", create a show, inspired by Taylor Swift
 90. teacher databases, finding a teacher
 91. method books (O'Connor etc)
 92. other fiddles and related bowed instruments
 93. blog/wordpress
 94. Fiddling Violinist Concerto (like Mark's Improvised Violin Concerto)
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Rainbow Gathering, Washington State, 2011

And a Few Extras Just For Fun 😊

Since you made it this far, here's a few extras for chuckles. One of my agents recently commented, **"Henry ... you're an enigma!"** Since I'd never heard that one before, I made a list of every phrase (complimentary or not) that I've ever heard. Here goes: ***enigma, Einstein, genius, living legend, eccentric, weird, quirky, nonconformist, loner, Asperger/ASD, best show, unconventional, perfectionist, a character, cartoon character, free spirit, unique, strange, one of a kind, egotist, narcissist, different, folk hero, folk legend, best fiddler, fiddle champion, wandering minstrel, "world's most famous itinerant fiddler"***

Here's a few of my favorite folk heroes that I find good company with:
Will Rodgers, Johnny Appleseed, Mark Twain, Davy Crockett, Annie Oakley, Geronimo, Wild Bill Hickok

And in recent years, it's become clear that I have some Asperger tendencies. I'm proud to have good company with: ***Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, Charles Darwin, Nikola Tesla, Temple Grandin, Greta Thunberg, Susan Boyle, Andy Warhol, Daryl Hannah***



With Pete Seeger, Mayday, Washington, DC, 1971
