CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date: June 17, 2019

Contact Information
Organization: The Brandywine Valley Chorale
Address: 1014 Belmont Lane Garnet Valley, Pa 19060
Phone: 610-459-8089
Website: theBVC.org
Year Incorporated: 2007
FEIN: 26-0471069

Executive Director Name: Larry E. Porter
Ex. Dir. E-mail: leporter44@msn.com
Board of Directors Chair: Larry Porter
Primary Contact Name: Larry Porter
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Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes X No Not Sure
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes X No Not Sure

Field/s of Interest:
X__ Arts, Culture & Humanities ___ Environment/Animal Welfare __ X Education
___ Health ___ Human Services ___ Religion

Organization Information:
Geographic Area Served:
Primarily Chester County

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:
Those who enjoy music, music students, retirement communities, choral members, other musicians in the community. Estimated annual total: 1200

Mission:
Foster and share the art of choral music as well as to serve our community through:
• The pursuit of musical excellence in a wide variety of repertoire and performance opportunities
• The promotion of music education;
• Cultural and charitable outreach; and
• Health and social benefits of participating in a choral community

Proposal Summary:
Funding is requested to support our 2019-2020 concert season and service to the local community. We are planning a special concert season with a focus on music education for our audiences and for local music students. This will require funding to support additional expenses associated with the orchestration required for the concert programming and to include renowned U.K. composer Will Todd as part of our spring concert and workshop for students.

Last Fiscal Year Annual Budget $__30500___ __0.25___ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
___91___ % of budget for program expenses ___8___ # of Board Volunteers
___5___ % of budget for administrative expenses ___55___ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
___4___ % of budget for fundraising expenses 6000 ___ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:
+Excelon +Neil Joines Fund, a fund of Chester County Community Foundation
+CCRES +SASCO

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: $__5000____
CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. Organization’s history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

The Brandywine Valley Chorale was founded in June 2007 by a group of Brandywine Valley musicians, supporters of the arts, and friends to add the art and beauty of choral music to the fine arts repertoire that is available in our area. Over the years since its creation, the BVC has provided a diversity of programming from well-known classical works, such as Bach’s “Magnificat”, to more contemporary works by Rutter, Lauridsen, McCartney and others. The repertoire has included Regional and World premieres, as well as commissioned pieces by local composers. Emphasis at the performances has been to provide educational opportunities for both the singing participants and the audience members.

As part of its commitment to education, the Chorale supported the formation of the Kennett Square Boys Choir and provided opportunities for this group to join the BVC concerts. We have also sponsored internships for university music students to participate with the Chorale as section leaders. A longer-term collaboration with the Unionville High School choirs and jazz band has continued through the years, providing a multi-generational opportunity for musical performances. We believe it is very important to help encourage our young talented performers by providing opportunities to join and share with them performance experiences.

Achievements/memorable performances that should be highlighted include:

- The BVC joined other choral groups for the performance of the European premiere of Jennifer Higdon’s “The Singing Rooms” in the Festival Chorus de Paris in 2014. Ms. Higdon is a renowned composer whose works have been performed throughout the world by an extensive list of performing organizations, including the Philadelphia Orchestra. She currently serves as the Milton L. Rock Chair of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. This Festival Chorus de Paris concert, including Faure’s “Requiem”, was performed in La Madeleine, the premier venue for “Requiem” in 1893. Both Jennifer Higdon and the librettist, Jeanne Minihan McGinn, attended the concert. While in France, we had the opportunity to perform patriotic music at the American Cemetery in Normandy, commemorating the 70th anniversary of D-Day.
- Regional premiere performance of “Armed Man: A Mass for Peace” by Karl Jenkins in a joint concert with the Unionville High School Chorale. This work was accompanied by war-film footage to enhance the interpretation of the music—the destruction of war and a call/hope for peace.
- Performance of Donald McCullough’s “Holocaust Cantata”. This program honored the memory of those who were lost in the Holocaust. The music was a compilation of songs based on melodies and text written by prisoners in the concentration camps.
- Pennsylvania premiere performance of Kim Arnesen’s “Christmas Alleluias” and a world premiere of “Cradle of God”, a new work commissioned for the BVC to celebrate its 10 year anniversary.
- Performance of Dan Forrest’s “Jubilate Deo” with full orchestra and the Unionville High School Chorale
- Performance of Beethoven’s Ninth with the Kennett Symphony
Pennsylvania premiere performance of Dan Forrest’s “Lux: The Dawn from on High” with full orchestra and Unionville High School choirs. This performance focused on the topic of suicide awareness and prevention.

As part of its commitment to the community, the Chorale has performed many free outreach concerts in a number of venues, including Jenner’s Pond, Kendall Crosslands, Traditions, and public attractions. We also supported a low cost opportunity for residents at Luther House to attend a concert. Outreach performances of the “Armed Man: A Mass for Peace” on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 at the local high school and the “Holocaust Cantata” at a local synagogue were particularly moving.

As summarized in our mission statement, our overarching goals include:

- Pursuit of musical excellence in a diversity of repertoire and performance opportunities
- Promotion of music education
- Cultural and charitable outreach

The BVC has been fortunate over its history to have the wonderful and growing support of area businesses, organizations and individuals who make our expression of choral art possible. Just as our Brandywine Valley Region is rooted in rich beauty and culture, the Chorale reflects its surroundings by performing fine music and building our area’s tradition as an exceptional center for the performing arts.

2. Funding Request

Funding is requested to support our 2019-2020 concert season and to provide service to the local community. We plan to utilize this concert season as a catalyst to:

- Support our mission of promoting music education
- Promote growth and sustainability of the organization
  + Grow chorale membership
  + Increase attendance and diversity of audience
  + Support funding initiative through growth of donor base
- Further promote the arts in Chester County and surrounding communities:

Planned activities as part of this initiative include:

- Additional orchestration for our concerts—December, 2019; May, 2020
- Participation of prominent U.K. composer, Will Todd, in our spring concert
- Masterclass/workshop led by Will Todd for high school students
- Possible commissioning of a new work

We are requesting $5000 from the Chester County Community Foundation to help support funding of the instrumentalists for the string and jazz ensembles, required to adequately perform the works planned for our upcoming concert season as well as the additional expenses required for Mr. Todd’s participation on our spring concert. Your grant would play a truly critical role in providing us this opportunity.
3. **How impact and results will be demonstrated**

We plan to utilize the following metrics to define impact:

- Growth in chorale membership
- Attendance at seasonal concerts
- Outreach concerts
- Number of donors
  - Corporate Sponsors
  - Personal Sponsors
  - Grants
- Stakeholder feedback
  - Chorale members
  - Audience
  - Follow-up with donors
  - Press coverage