

**CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

Date: August 31, 2021

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Brandywine Valley Chorale
Address: 703 Pheasant Run, Kennett Sq., PA, 19348
Phone: 610-347-0623
Website: thebvc.org
Year Incorporated: 2007
FEIN: 26-0471069

ED/CEO Name: Ruth Russell
ED/CEO E-mail: russell@comcast.net
Board Chair Name: Ruth Russell
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Larry Porter
Primary Contact E-mail: leporter44@msn.com

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities Environment/Animal Welfare Education
 Health Human Services
 Religion

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

Geographic Area Served: Primarily Chester County

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Those who enjoy music, music students, retirement communities, choral members, other musicians in the community. Estimated annual total: 1500

Annual Budget \$ 27250 _____ 0.25 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
96 _____ % of budget for program expenses 8 _____ # of Board Volunteers
_____ % of budget for administrative expenses 55 _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
4 _____ % of budget for fundraising expenses 6500 _____ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

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

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building or General Operating ?

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 3000 _____

Proposal Summary:

Funding is requested to support our 2021-2022 concert season and service to the local community. The Covid-19 pandemic significantly impacted our operation, resulting in the cancellation of our spring 2020 concert, as well as, our 2020/2021 concert season. We anticipate that the revenue for the upcoming season may be lower as we restart our operations following the pandemic. This grant would support our reopening and the additional funding required for the orchestration necessary for our spring concert.

**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. 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. This was a moving experience involving a choir of 120 voices and an orchestra of 23 area musicians.

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, Longwood Gardens, and Brandywine River Museum. 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 2021-2022 concert season and service to the local community. The Covid-19 pandemic significantly impacted our operation, resulting in the cancellation of our spring 2020 concert, as well as our 2020/2021 concert season. We anticipate that the revenue for the upcoming season may be lower as we restart our operations following the pandemic. A grant of \$3000 would play a truly critical role in support of our reopening, assist in the additional funding required for the orchestration for our spring concert, and allow us to pursue our goals in the coming year.

Planned activities for this concert season include:

- Zoom master class with Dan Forrest for chorale members—September, 2021
- Live fall concert featuring favorites that have been performed over our fourteen year history. We believe this will aid in reintroducing our audience after a two year gap in performances — December, 2021
- Live spring concert at the Unionville High School. We plan to invite the Unionville High School Chorale to join us for this concert. We are considering a Mozart theme for the concert (Mozart's Requiem, a Mozart mass, ...). We are planning a live orchestra for this concert.

These plans assume that there will not be a resurgence of the Covid virus that would prevent or delay our proceeding.