

**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 \$ <u>31000</u>	<u>0.25</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>96</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>8</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>        </u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>55</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>4</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>7500</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>	

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** Joines Fund, a fund of Chester County Community Foundation; Excelon; CCRES; Herr's

**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 2022-2023 concert season. This will be our 15<sup>th</sup> concert season and we are planning a memorable year to celebrate this important milestone. This grant would support our efforts to fund the expenses associated with the orchestration and staging of our two concerts.

**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. While in France, we had the opportunity to perform patriotic music at the American Cemetery in Normandy, commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.
- 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.
- An immersive candlelight concert performance of a number of works by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. We also presented a newly commissioned work, "A Christmas Carol", by David Bennett Thomas.
  
- Performance of "Remembrance and Hope" with a theme centering on the Covid-19 pandemic. The concert featured two Requiems, "Requiem" by Faure and "Requiem for the Living" by Dan Forrest. The Faure piece focused on asking for the eternal rest and consolation for those who have passed (Remembrance). The Forrest piece asking for the eternal rest and mercy for the living (Hope). We were joined in the concert by the Unionville High School Chorale and a chamber orchestra of 18 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 2022-2023 concert season and service to the local community. This will be our 15<sup>th</sup> concert season and we are planning a memorable year to celebrate this important milestone. A grant of \$3000 would play a truly critical role in support of our efforts to fund the expenses associated with our planned activities for the year.

Planned activities for this concert season include:

- December, 2022 -- Winter concert which will feature the Vivaldi Gloria and will include additional seasonal pieces. We currently expect to include a chamber ensemble of 7 area musicians to enhance the performance
- April, 2023 -- Spring concert at the Unionville High School. We will perform Karl Jenkins’s “The Armed Man” with orchestra, UHS Chorale and Dance Ensemble. The concert will be performed theatrically with theater lighting and staging.