

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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Date 9/12/23

Contact Information

Organization Name: LYRE ASSOCIATION OF N. AMERICA
Address: 2237 KIMBERTON RD, PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460
Phone: 610-608-9281
Website: <http://lyreassociation.org>
Year Incorporated: 1982
FEIN: 14-1759110

ED/CEO Name: MARGO KETCHUM
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Board Chair Name: NANCY CARPENTER
Board Chair Approval (check):
Primary Contact Name: MARGO KETCHUM
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Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The Lyre Association of North America is a non-profit organization whose mission is to initiate, to inspire, and to support the sounding of the modern lyre as a musical instrument in artistic, pedagogical, and therapeutic activities in North America and throughout the world.

Geographic Area Served (*Specify primary Chester County regions served*): The headquarters of the Lyre Association of N. America is located in Kimberton, PA. Our association has members in North America and around the world.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Lyre players, lyre builders, and composers for the modern chromatic lyre are served by our association, with a current membership of 116.

Annual Budget \$20,615	2 – # of 0.25 Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
64 % of budget for program expenses	8 – # of Board Volunteers
36 % budget for administrative expenses	3 – # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
0 % of budget for fundraising expenses <small>100 % total</small>	1,450 – # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: Member dues, conference, store sales (music book sales, lyre rentals, lyre sales)

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building (not General Operating)

Capacity Building Proposal focus:

Mission, Vision & Strategy Governance & Leadership **Partnerships & Collaborations**
 Fundraising, Development & Marketing Technology Other: _____

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$5,000

Proposal Summary:

The Lyre Association of North America is seeking to engage an intern who will be trained by Chester County resident Alan Thewless in the development and building of a new lyre based on the Derscheid chromatic lyre produced in Germany from 1980 to 2008. Called the "Legacy Lyre," it will be a further development of the original, to be built in two sizes for adults. In support of such a potential apprenticeship, LANA would like to be able to offer assistance in the form of room and board during the intern's stay as well as insurance coverage. We envision that the legacy lyres crafted by Alan and his apprentice will be added to our rental inventory and made available to our membership.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

The Lyre Association of North America (LANA) is requesting the support of the Chester County Community Fund to build our capacity to support the building of lyres, as a new musical instrument, which has only just begun to be possible in the United States. The Lyre Association is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the artistic, educational, and therapeutic development of the modern lyre as a new musical instrument. The new lyre is a stringed instrument constructed with a sound resonance chamber and strings that go over the chamber (as opposed to into the chamber, as in the standard harp). This allows the tones to form in a way that is more resonant and health promoting. The Lyre Association was founded in 1982 in upstate New York. LANA has been centered in Chester County, the home of the treasurer and many members, since November 1992. LANA supports the work of music teachers in Waldorf and Waldorf-inspired schools, including the Kimberton Waldorf School in Kimberton, PA. Therapeutic music work is also supported in special needs communities such as [Camphill Village Kimberton Hills](#) and the [Camphill School](#). LANA brings cultural activities developed in Chester County to the wider world of national and international conferences on lyre playing and performance. The Lyre Association publishes a [blog](#), a [newsletter](#), and a journal [Soundings](#), and it provides [music for sale](#) and [lyres for sale and rent](#). The Lyre Association is the only association supporting this new instrument in North America. To that end, the Association seeks to partner with a local lyre builder to develop a new version of this instrument. In so doing, [Tir-anna Musical Instruments](#) in Chester County would become the only workshop in North America to produce this instrument. Specifically, we are seeking funds to support an intern to learn the lyre building in order to ensure the continuation of this important skill in this country. This step is critical to growing and maintaining various versions of this new instrument with its distinctive qualities of tone.

2. Funding request

We are requesting funds for Capacity Building, specifically Partnerships and Collaborations.

- **Description of key initiative**

Lyre-building workshops in Europe have been producing various versions of the lyre, and of different sizes from harp-size to small simple lyres for children since the 1920s. Thus far only the Tir-Anna workshop, owned by Alan Thewless (a Chester County resident) has worked on lyres in North America. We now have a unique opportunity to partner with Mr. Thewless to develop a new lyre based on one produced in Germany from 1980 to 2008. The original builder, Mr. Derscheid, passed away and the Lyre Association was allowed to purchase materials from the workshop in Germany in order to build a similar lyre here in America. We are requesting funding for an intern to learn the process in Mr. Thewless's workshop over a period of one year. Thus, the production will be able to meet demand and secure the process of building lyres in this country.

- **Specific needs and issues to be addressed**

This capacity-building initiative will allow the Lyre Association to expand into lyre building, not just playing and renting. This building project supports and expands the existing services that the Association provides to encourage and expand lyre playing in artistic, therapeutic, and educational settings. The Lyre Association would, therefore, use these grant funds to support a new artistic initiative in this country, which would be located in Chester County. It is important to fund this project now, as Mr. Thewless will be retiring soon, and it is imperative that a younger person master the necessary skills and take up the initiative.

- **Impact of the project**

The impact of this project would be measured by tracking the additional instruments that are being played, the venues and types of activities being supported, and the expansion of the lyres that LANA rents to those who are not able to purchase the instruments on their own. The services that lyrists provide – in the arts, in therapy, and in education – are frequently based in Chester County in the form of concerts (for example in [October 2022](#)),

music therapy at Camphill campuses, and occasional performances at Kimberton Waldorf School, Camphill Transition Program, Camphill School & their Foxfield campus, Mosaic Place, Glenmoore, Devon Christian Community, Kimberton Inn, and Phoenixville YMCA, and music education at [annual conferences](#) and [regional workshops](#) throughout North America.

- **Expected activities**

We propose to support an intern to work for three weeklong sessions in Mr. Thewless's workshop in order to learn to build the new instrument based on the Derscheid original. The workshop in which the training would take place is owned and run by Alan Thewless in Pottstown (North Coventry). It has been in operation since 2009, and is called Tir-anna Musical Instruments. The workshop itself consists of a permanently dedicated space of 600 square feet with the tools and materials and patterns needed to produce lyres. The costs will include support for the intern to travel, course fees, materials (wood and strings), and insurance to cover the intern's use of the lyre building workshop.

Project budget of \$5,000 includes the following:

- Liability Insurance: approximately \$620
- Lyre Builder's Material Costs: Strings: \$150, Wood: \$160, (The intern would use workshop tools)
- Intern Tuition (master teacher's payment) Up to \$3000 (\$1000 for each of three weeklong working sessions)
- Room and Board: AirBnB and meals for 3 blocks \$1070.

III. ATTACHMENTS

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations
3. Most recent annual report & financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
5. Itemized budget for capacity building initiative (external consultant N/A)
6. Current Strategic/Organizational plan: Due to the small size and limited budget for our nonprofit organization, we do not have a traditional Strategic Plan as such. The Board holds annual retreats to plan our Board and Working Group collaborations and funding. Attached is our Organizational Chart that shows our governance model and minutes from a recent Board retreat showing our strategic planning for the year.