

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

Date: **October 27, 2023**

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>41000</u>	<u>0.25</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>96</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>7</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u> </u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>60</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; Presser Foundation; 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 2023-2024 concert season. We are planning a memorable 16th year with expanded programming, including a special concert in February with a commissioned work by Will Todd, who will also be our guest conductor. This grant would support the additional expenses required to fund the commissioned work, planned instrumentation, and additional programming.

**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, Forrest, Todd, Arnesen and others. The repertoire has included Regional and World premieres, as well as commissioned pieces by local and well-known composers. Emphasis at the performances has been to provide educational opportunities for both the singing participants and the audience members.

We have sponsored internships for university music students to participate with the Chorale as section leaders. A longer-term collaboration with the Unionville High School choirs 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 70th 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.
- Performance of Karl Jenkin's "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace" with orchestra and the Unionville High School Chorale. This was a powerful and moving work that reflects on the horror and futility of war while presenting hope for a more peaceful future. This performance involved more than 100 voices and an orchestra of 16 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.

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

We plan to build on the past success and growth of the Chorale by expanding our programming for the coming year (2023-2024) to include a special concert for the community in February 2024. Funding is requested to support our 2023-2024 concert season and service to the local community. A grant of \$3000 would play a truly critical role in support of our efforts to fund the additional expenses associated with the expanded programming, planned instrumentation for the concerts and a commissioned work by Will Todd.

Planned activities for this concert season include:

- December, 2023 -- Winter concert which will feature "Gloria" by John Rutter and will include additional seasonal pieces, including the premier of an arrangement of "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" by local composer, Joseph Eckman. We will be joined by a brass ensemble.

- February, 2024 – We plan a special concert event, featuring "Passion Music" by internationally renowned UK composer Will Todd. In addition a commissioned work for the BVC by Mr. Todd will be premiered during the concert. We have invited him to come to Unionville to join with us in this concert as our guest conductor. In support of our mission to provide educational opportunities, we have invited high school choirs from Unionville, Kennett Square and Pequea Valley to participate in the concert. Will Todd will also provide a master class for the students as part of the educational experience. We will have a guest gospel soloist and a jazz ensemble for the concert.

Our programs are designed to have an impact on our community and our chorale members.

- Collaboration with local high schools provides the students an opportunity to join and share in a performance that will broaden their experience and encourage them to continue in their love of music. This year, the students will have the opportunity to meet, interact and perform with an acknowledged composer, an exciting experience.
- We believe that the music repertoire reflected in this year's programming should reach, interest and impact additional members of our diverse community in the Greater Kennett Area and Chester County.