

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

Date: **October 16, 2024**

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: 2500

Annual Budget \$ 42000_____	_____0.25_____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
_____96_____ % of budget for program expenses	_____10_____ # of Board Volunteers
_____ % of budget for administrative expenses	_____75_____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
_____4_____ % of budget for fundraising expenses	_____9000_____ # of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>	

Top 3-5 funding sources: Joines Fund, a fund of Chester County Community Foundation; Presser Foundation; CCRES; Bartlett & Company

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 2024-2025 concert season. We are planning a memorable 17th year with Mozart's Requiem during the spring concert and orchestras for both of our concerts. This grant would support the additional expenses required to fund the planned instrumentation and concert 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:

- 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.
- Performance of UK composer Will Todd's "Passion Music". In addition, a commissioned work for the BVC by Mr. Todd, "O Magnum Mysterium" was premiered during the concert. He performed with us on stage as our guest jazz pianist. We were joined in concert by the Unionville High School Chorale, the Kennett High School Chamber Choir, and the Pequea Valley High School Chamber Singers. For the concert, we had more than 150 singers, a jazz ensemble and a guest gospel soloist. As part of the educational experience, Mr. Todd provided a master class for the students and BVC members during his time with us.

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 are planning to build upon the past success and growth of the Chorale. Funding is requested to support our 2024-2025 concert season. A grant of \$3000 would play a truly critical role in support of our efforts to fund the additional expenses required for the planned instrumentation and concert programming.

Planned activities for this concert season include:

- December, 2024 – Our holiday concert will feature “Magnificat” by Taylor Scott Davis, a respected American composer of sacred music. This composition was premiered and recorded by the acclaimed British singing group, VOCES8. Our program will highlight additional seasonal works and will include our traditional carol sing-along. We will be joined by a chamber orchestra for this concert.
- May 3, 2025 – We plan a major concert event, featuring “Requiem” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, one of the greatest composers in history. The program will also feature “Illuminare” by Elaine Hagenberg. This new composition takes us through a season of *beauty* and *goodness* disrupted by darkness and confusion. But as *Light* gradually returns, hope is restored, illuminating our future and guiding us in peace. We will be joined by the Chester County Choral Society and the Chamber Choir of Unionville High School with guest soloists and an orchestra comprised of instrumentalists from the Brandywine Valley.

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

- In support of our mission to promote music education, we have invited the Chamber Choir of the Unionville High School to perform with us in our spring concert. We believe this will provide the students an opportunity to share in a performance that will broaden their experience and encourage them to continue in their love of music.
- As part of our strategy to broaden our reach and impact in the community, we continue to seek collaboration opportunities. Our collaboration with the Chester County Choral Society for the spring concert provides an excellent opportunity to perform a major work by Mozart for the benefit of the community.
- We believe that the music repertoire reflected in this year's programming should reach, interest and impact members of our diverse community in the Greater Kennett Area and Chester County.