



LET FREEDOM RING
AMERICA250 GRANT APPLICATION FORM
CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

An electronic version of this application is available at <https://cccf250.org/planning/>

Contact Information

Contact Person Name: James Looney
 Organization Name: Chester County Pops Orchestra (DBA Chesco Pops)
 Address: P.O. Box 2468, West Chester, PA 19380
 Phone: 610-594-9178
 Email: jloon36@gmail.com
 Website: <https://chescopops.org>
 Year Incorporated: 2005
 FEIN #: 20-2515353

Note: Please attach a copy of your 501c3 letter with this request. Per IRS regulations, grants can be awarded to nonprofit charities and municipalities, but NOT individuals nor businesses.

Organization Field of Interest

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Arts, Culture, Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment, Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Library
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health & Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Justice, Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Municipality/Governmental	<input type="checkbox"/> If other, please describe:			

A lot	Some	A little	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This inspires & engages a wide array of people in commemoration of America's founding with our Revolutionary Declaration of Independence.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This connects Chester County's stories to the nation's past, present & future.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This commemoration is truly by the people, for all people. We invite wide input & welcome all to actively participate.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This examines & fosters fundamental rights of Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness for All.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We zoom in to CCCF250 planning meetings to share information & ideas.

Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,250	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2,250	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$5,250	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$10,250
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Please **BRIEFLY** describe how this funding will help your programs, services, activities and/or events to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation's Declaration of Independence, and our continuing journey toward liberty and justice for all.

What are you doing? When? Who will it impact? What difference do you aim to make?
What will it cost overall? Who are you partnering & coordinating with?

Please e-mail this Mini-Grant request with your 501c3 letter to grants@chescofcf.org

Let Freedom Ring Mini-Grant decisions are made on the 25th of each month.

Questions? Contact Grants Officer Stephanie Stevens (610) 696-8211 grants@chescofcf.org

For Good. For All. Forever.

Chesco Pops
Grant Proposal

The Chesco Pops is pleased to submit this request to Chester County Community Foundation for a *Let Freedom Ring* grant to support its 2026 summer’s concert series, *Ellis Island: The Dream of America*.

Organization Overview

In 2005 the Chester County Pops Orchestra was founded with the mission “To provide the citizens of Chester County (PA) and beyond with the musical, cultural, educational, and entertainment benefits that derive from a resident pops orchestra.” Today, the orchestra is known as the “Chesco Pops” and consists of 65 musicians who perform pops, jazz, and light classical repertoire. As the goals and objectives of the organization are grounded in community values. Children’s tickets are always free, and seniors are encouraged to attend via group sale rates for retirement communities. On average, the Chesco Pops performs for 1,600 audience members per year.

America250 Program

The Chesco Pops presents four concert series per year, highlighting various holiday and thematic celebrations and partnering with local artists and artistic groups. Each concert series presents 2-3 performances around Chester County and beyond, reaching hundreds of audience members at each concert.

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States, the Chesco Pops will present two concert series highlighting American music meant to inspire and uplift during its 2026 season. First is the spring concert series “American Landscapes” on March 20 at 7:30 PM at Collegium Performing Arts Center and March 22 at 3:00 PM at Phoenixville Middle School. The Pops will perform favorite American works by John Williams, Leonard Bernstein, Leroy Anderson, and more. Concert highlights include the favorite *Symphonic Dances* from *West Side Story*.

The Chesco Pops is thrilled to present *Ellis Island: The Dream of America* next as its summer concert series on July 12 at 3:00 PM at Immaculata University. This moving multi-media orchestral work composed by Peter Boyer includes projected images and first-person narrations of historical letters from seven immigrants who entered Ellis Island between 1910 and 1940. Concert highlights include a new rendition of *America the Beautiful* arranged by Joseph Lorini, Composer-in-Residence, that will premiere at the performance.

Budget

Musicians	\$8,500
Music Rights	\$1,300
Actors	\$1,400
Videos	\$ 500
Total	\$11,700

Goals and Impact

The impact of the Chesco Pops’s *Ellis Island: The Dream of America* summer concert series will be demonstrated by the:

- Number of individuals who attend the performances;
- Positive feedback we receive from audiences;

- Traffic to our website and social media engagement; and,
- Local press/earned media.

Participation in the national celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence will also be a wonderful opportunity for increased awareness of and interest in the Chesco Pops. This will help the organization to continue to grow its audiences and supporters for the future.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **AUG 21 2007**

THE CHESTER COUNTY POPS ORCHESTRA
C/O NIKOLAOS I TSOUROS
PO BOX 660 17 W MINER ST
WEST CHESTER, PA 19381-0000

Employer Identification Number:
20-2515353
DLN:
17053170048037
Contact Person:
THOMAS C KOESTER ID# 31116
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
DECEMBER 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 Required:
YES
Effective Date of Exemption:
MARCH 21, 2005
Contribution Deductibility:
YES

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Information for Exempt Organizations Under Section 501(c)(3) for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Letter 947 (DO/CG)

THE CHESTER COUNTY POPS ORCHESTRA

We have sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Choi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "C".

Robert Choi
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Enclosures: Information for Organizations Exempt Under Section 501(c)(3)