



I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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Date: 3/26/2026

Contact Information

Organization Name: Brandywine Valley Symphony
 Address: 206 E State St. Kennett Square, PA 19348
 Phone: 610-444-6363
 Website: bvsymphony.org
 Year Incorporated: 1946
 FEIN: 23-2017980

ED/CEO Name:
 ED/CEO E-mail:
 Board Chair Name: Timothy Blair
 Board Chair Approval: ✓
 Primary Contact Name: Brittany Miller
 Primary Contact E-mail: brittany@bvsymphony.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The Brandywine Valley Symphony enriches the cultural life of the region by presenting high-quality symphonic music that educates, inspires, and engages audiences of all ages. Through live performances, educational programs, and community partnerships, the Symphony is committed to making orchestral music accessible and affordable while supporting professional musicians and nurturing a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

Geographic Area Served: Chester County & the Brandywine Valley region

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served. Chester County, Delaware County & the Greater Philadelphia area, over 10,000 community members and tourists to share the gift of music with.

Annual Budget \$ <u>315,000</u>	<u>4</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>45</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>11</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>45</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>3</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>10</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>1,100</u>	# of Volunteer Hours

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Grants, Donations, Ticket Sales

This grant proposal is for: Direct Service Programs & General Operating

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 9,000

Proposal Summary: We seek support from The Neil Joines Fund of the Chester County Community Foundation to underwrite essential costs for a June 25th orchestral performance at Longwood Gardens. The Brandywine Valley Symphony, in celebration of America250, will perform works by George Gershwin, Leonard Bernstein, and Aaron Copland, alongside the world premiere of a newly commissioned piece. Funding will support musician payroll, rehearsal space, and music rentals. Larger-scale programming such as this increases music rental costs, particularly for well-known works. This grant will help us sustain high artistic standards, support professional musicians, and provide accessible, high-quality orchestral music that enriches the cultural life of Chester County.

II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information in 1-3 pages. Please be brief.

1. Nonprofit's overall aims, key initiatives, key achievements & distinctiveness

The Brandywine Valley Symphony (BVS) enhances the quality of life in Chester County by providing accessible, high-quality orchestral music and meaningful arts education opportunities for residents of all ages. Its mission is rooted in the belief that live music is a powerful tool for connection, creativity, and community well-being, and that access to the arts should not be limited by geography or income.

BVS fulfills this mission through three core areas: performance, education, and community engagement. Its mainstage concert series brings professional-caliber orchestral performances to local audiences, offering an accessible cultural experience within the community. These concerts feature a range of repertoire and guest artists, fostering both artistic excellence and broad appeal.

The Symphony's educational programming plays a vital role in serving Chester County's youth. Through student concerts and partnerships with local schools, BVS introduces young people to live orchestral music, often for the first time. These experiences support creativity, listening skills, and a deeper appreciation for the arts—particularly important as many schools face constraints in arts funding.

Equally important is BVS's commitment to accessibility and inclusion. The organization maintains affordable ticket pricing and offers free or reduced-cost performances to ensure broad participation. Community partnerships further extend its reach to individuals and families who may not otherwise have access to live cultural experiences.

BVS has established itself as a trusted cultural resource in the region, with consistent programming, strong audience engagement, and enduring partnerships with schools and community organizations. Its distinctiveness lies in its ability to combine professional artistic quality with a deeply local, community-centered approach, directly contributing to the cultural vitality and connectedness of Chester County.

2. Funding request

What specific needs & issues are being addressed, via what programs and services?

The Brandywine Valley Symphony seeks support to expand its impact as a community-based cultural resource addressing key local needs:

- Access to cultural experiences: Not all Chester County residents have the means or opportunity to attend live orchestral performances.
- Gaps in arts education: Many students lack consistent exposure to music education and live performance experiences.
- Community connection and enrichment: There is a growing need for shared cultural experiences that bring people together and enhance community well-being.

Funding from The Neil Joines Fund will directly support:

- The mainstage concert series, ensuring continued access to high-quality performances at affordable price points.

- Educational outreach programs, including student concerts and partnerships with local schools that provide meaningful arts exposure.
- Community engagement initiatives, such as free or reduced-cost performances and collaborations with local organizations to reach underserved populations.

These programs collectively improve quality of life by making the arts accessible, fostering creativity, and strengthening community ties.

Why is it important to fund this now?

Investment at this time is critical to sustaining and expanding the Symphony's community impact. Chester County continues to experience shifts in how residents engage with the arts, and organizations like BVS play a key role in rebuilding and re-energizing cultural participation.

Additionally, schools are facing increasing constraints on arts funding, making community-based organizations essential partners in delivering arts education. Without support, many students may miss opportunities that contribute to creativity, confidence, and academic engagement.

Finally, BVS is positioned to deepen its reach within the community—expanding audiences, strengthening partnerships, and increasing accessibility. Funding now will ensure that this momentum translates into long-term benefits for Chester County residents.

How will results & impact be demonstrated?

BVS will measure its impact in ways that directly reflect the Neil Joines Fund's emphasis on community benefit and quality of life:

- Participation metrics: Number of attendees at concerts, number of students served, and reach of outreach programs.
- Accessibility indicators: Growth in attendance at free or reduced-cost events and participation from underserved groups.
- Educational outcomes: Feedback from educators and students demonstrating increased exposure to and engagement with music.
- Community engagement: Partnerships with local organizations and evidence of increased community involvement.
- Audience growth and retention: Indicators of sustained and expanding cultural participation within the region.

In addition to quantitative data, BVS will gather qualitative feedback and testimonials that illustrate the personal and community-level impact of its programs—such as increased student interest in music, enhanced sense of community connection, and greater access to cultural experiences.

Through its performances, educational initiatives, and outreach efforts, the Brandywine Valley Symphony directly contributes to a more vibrant, connected, and culturally enriched Chester County. Support from The Neil Joines Fund will ensure that these benefits continue to reach a broad and diverse community, strengthening the region's quality of life for years to come.

III. ATTACHMENTS

Email this support information. If it is on your website, please provide the URL.

1. Copy of **501 (c) (3)** federal tax-exempt letter ✓
2. List of **Board** of Directors, with their affiliations **URL:** ✓
3. Most recent **annual report** **URL:** ✓
4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement** **URL:** ✓
5. Itemized **organizational operating budget** with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date ✓
6. Current **strategic plan**. If your nonprofit does **not** have a current strategic plan, **explain why.** ✓