



**JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND PROPOSAL**

**Contact Information**

**Brandywine Valley Symphony**

206 E State St. Kennett Square, PA 19348  
610-444-6363  
bvsymphony.org  
Year Incorporated: 1946  
FEIN: 23-2017980

Board Chair Name: **Dr. Timothy Blair**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/timothyvblair/>

Board Chair Approval: ✓

Primary Contact Name: Brittany Miller

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**Organization Information:**

**Field/s of Interest:**

X	Arts, Culture, Heritage		Education, Library		Environment, Animals
	Health		Human Services		Social Justice, Civic Engagement
	Religion		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:** 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** \$ 415,000 4 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
45 % of budget for program expenses 11 # of Board Volunteers  
45 % of budget for administrative expenses 3 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
10 % of budget for fundraising expenses 1,100 # of Volunteer Hours  
100% = total

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

**Grant Amount Requested:** \$ 35,000

**Proposal Summary:** We seek support for essential costs for a June 25 2026 orchestral performance at Longwood Gardens and for run-out costs for our educational programs. 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 the region in the concert setting as well as in the community/school setting.

## II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE.

### 1. Overall aims, key initiatives, key achievements & distinctiveness

The Brandywine Valley Symphony (BVS) provides **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 the region.

### 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 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 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, playing 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 residents.

### **How will results & impact be demonstrated?**

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 region. Thank you, in advance, for helping us ensure that these benefits continue to reach a broad and diverse community, strengthening the region's quality of life for years to come.

