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Is your organization a 501(c)3 nonprofit?

Yes

According to your 501(c)3 letter, in what town is your official office located?

West Hartford

Where will your project be performed or exhibited?

West Hartford

Will this activity occur after February 1, 2023?

Yes

Are you a recent grantee?

No

Organization Name

Women Composers Festival of Hartford

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

471095892

Principal Contact Name

Rami Levin

Title

President of the Board

Email

womencomposersfestivalhartford@gmail.com

Phone

(860) 726-4914

Address

P.O. Box 370632
West Hartford, Connecticut 06137
United States
Map It

Website

http://www.womencomposersfestivalhartford.com

Amount requested this application

$8,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

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The mission of the Women Composers Festival of Hartford (WCFH) is to provide an educational and entertaining platform for the promotion of women's music. The annual Festival presents musical performances and scholarship by and about historic and living women composers in an effort to broaden understanding of musical literature and women's contributions to this field. We feature artists who self-identify as female and embrace diversity of race, ethnicity, and ability.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

The Women Composers Festival of Hartford (WCFH) was founded in 2001 by composer/pianist Heather (Rupy) Seaton, then a student at the University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music. Motivated by her realization that other than her own compositions she had never performed music by women composers, Seaton spearheaded a Festival to explore and celebrate works by contemporary and historical women composers.

Over the next decade, the Festival developed into a highly valued resource for the dissemination and performance of music by women composers, as well as the inspiration for new works and collaborations. The Festival began attracting scholars, composers, audiences, and supporters from around the world. Eventually, the Forum, now the Scholarly Symposium, was added to explore topics relevant to feminist musicology.

In 2014 the Women Composers Festival of Hartford became a 501c3 organization in order to better advocate for the ongoing recognition of work by women composers. Over the years WCFH has evolved from predominantly student leadership to governance by a community-based board consisting of professionals in music, education, and other relevant fields. With this new leadership, WCFH continues to expand its offerings and commitment to the greater Hartford community. The Festival now features a Composer-in-Residence and an Ensemble-in-Residence and also includes a day-long marathon of music by women, and an Emerging Composers Workshop.

In early 2020, with support from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, WCFH worked with a facilitator to help identify and prioritize organizational goals for future planning and action. As part of this focus, WCFH deliberately and strategically enlarged its board to welcome members who best reflect the diversity of the Hartford community. This resulted in a new and committed group of individuals who are proactive and focused on finding innovative ways to advance the organizational mission.

Describe the demographics of your audience/people served by your activities.

Our Festival attracts local and international attendance, enhancing the cultural prominence of Hartford. We invite participation from gendered and BIPOC communities. While we could not capture demographics for the virtual 2021 Festival, it was accessed by an average of 75 devices in each of five events, both domestic and international. Of our 32 presenters five were Asian and two were African American. We expect our new initiatives to broaden the diversity of our demographics.

Describe your organization's governance.

The WCFH Board includes President, Vice President, Artistic Chair, Secretary, and a member-at-large. We are seeking a Treasurer. We have a new part-time Executive Director (Sept. 1) and a part-time Bookkeeper. Monthly Board meetings have 100% attendance. Active committees include Grants, Festival Planning, and a Selection Committee, which reviews applications for Composer-in-Residence, Ensemble-in-Residence, and participation in other Festival events. Our entire Board contributes financially.

Describe the diversity of your board.

Our board currently consists of five members, including one gender-fluid BIPOC individual (20%), one openly gay cisgender male (20%), and three cisgender women (60%). Our ages range from 30s to 70s. In pursuit of our goal to increase the size and diversity of our board, we are working with Leaders on Board through Leadership Greater Hartford, to meet and interview prospective members.

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What percentage of your board makes personal financial contributions to your organization?

One hundred percent of our board makes personal contributions.

Project Name

2022 Women Composers Festival of Hartford

Project Description

The 2022 Festival will be held at The University of Hartford and will also be shown virtually. The three-day Festival includes four events. The Scholarly Symposium features presentations by scholars addressing topics about contemporary and historic women composers. The Emerging Composers Workshop, organized by composer Dr. Jessica Rudman, is a public reading session performed by our Ensemble-in-Residence, the Hartford Independent Chamber Orchestra (HICO), a top-tier professional Hartford-based ensemble committed to performing new works. The workshop provides the opportunity for student composers to receive feedback from professional musicians. The Music Marathon is a day-long concert of music by women. The Closing Concert features the premiere of a new work by our Composer-in-Residence, Hanna Kim, a native of South Korea and recipient of many international prizes and commissions, as well as works chosen from our International Score Call and performed by HICO. See attached program.

Total estimated project budget

$14,000.00

Project start/opening

03/11/2022

Project end/closing

03/13/2022

Project venue

University of Hartford, The Hartt School

Project town

West Hartford and virtually

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

The Festival includes four events over three days. Admission: In-person participants $75/$50 Students, Adjunct Faculty, seniors. Audience Festival passes $50/$40, Music Marathon $30/$20, Saturday evening concert $30/$20. The Scholarly Symposium and the Emerging Composers Workshop are free. Donations for streamed events will be encouraged. We anticipate audiences of between 50 and 150. Comps will be offered to granting organizations and the press. We do not turn away individuals unable to pay.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

The Festival and other events will be promoted on social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) beginning one month in advance. We will send emails to our 600+ subscribers, and public service announcements on WWUH and NEPR. We hope to interest local and industry-wide publications in writing online features and print articles about WCFH activities. Flyers will be

posted in local businesses, schools, and libraries along with focused engagement of music teachers, colleagues, and students.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

Roberts funding will help pay the Ensemble-in-Residence fee, the Composer-in-Residence commission, audio and video costs, venue fees, and publicity. To bring compensation in line with guidelines recommended by Chamber Music America, our FY22 budget reflects a meaningful increase in the awards paid to artists. This funding will significantly assist WCFH as we continue to nurture the careers of the gifted and under-recognized artists who are most in need of our encouragement.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

The Roberts Foundation will be acknowledged with signage at Festival events, on our website, and in all programs, with the accompanying Roberts Foundation logo. We will verbally thank the Foundation in our welcoming remarks before each event as well as in our public service announcements on the radio and in online and print articles.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

WCFH's high standards of artistic excellence have brought innovative performances to Hartford. A diverse panel of judges, all established composers and performers, ensures that our participating artists are of exceptionally high caliber. We seek composers whose works are well-crafted, show originality, and resonate emotionally with an audience. By including talented emerging composers, we also highlight those in the early stages of their careers. We seek performers whose skill, sensitivity, and nuance most effectively communicate the works they present. The scholars we select pursue relevant and timely research that enhances our understanding of current issues in women's music, both contemporary and historical. We select professional artists and scholars who inspire the next generation with their example of creativity, collaboration, and community. WCFH supports and elevates talented artists whose voices might otherwise never be heard.

How does this project align with that definition, and how does it advance your mission?

As in all previous Festivals, our judges have selected exceptional artists and scholars. Our 2022 Composer-in-Residence Hanna Kim, a native of South Korea and recipient of many international prizes and commissions, holds degrees in composition from Kyungwon University, South Korea, Manhattan School of Music, NYC, and Hartt School of Music. She is currently pursuing a doctorate at University of Toronto, Canada. Our 2022 Ensemble-in-Residence, HICO, comprises top-tier professional Hartford-based musicians committed to performing and promoting new works including world premieres. HICO has collaborated with such local organizations as Hartford Public Library, Hartt School, New Britain Museum of American Art, Charter Oak Cultural Center, and Capital Community College. This Festival fulfills our mission to educate and engage the public through performances and scholarship by and about historic and living women composers, with participants of diverse racial, ethnic, and gender identities.

How will your audience and the community benefit from this project?

Our 2022 Festival, with both a local and virtual presence, will enhance the cultural prominence of Hartford and focus attention on its status as a destination for arts and culture.

The Festival fulfills an important WCFH goal to enrich the lives of members of the Greater Hartford community by offering quality, innovative, and affordable music performances showcasing women's music.

The University of Hartford will be our venue. We will encourage their students to attend and also promote the events to other educational institutions including the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, Trinity College, and University of Connecticut, Hartford campus. We will advertise through radio announcements, flyers, and social media. The hybrid nature of the event will allow attendance by members of the Greater Hartford area and beyond who might find it difficult to attend in person.

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While we charge admission, we welcome all to attend regardless of their financial means.

How will this project be evaluated?

At every Festival, surveys are distributed to all audience members who attend in-person or virtually. In addition, a post-Festival survey will be sent to all composers, performers, and scholars. We will use this feedback toward improving future events. Responses of our audience to the concerts, scholarly presentations, and opportunities to network with other women composers, are subject to an ongoing assessment with information gathered from surveys and conversations with audience and participants throughout the Festival.

In addition, each year we compare attendance numbers with previous Festivals to evaluate the success of our advertising and outreach. We closely monitor social media during the Festival for responses to our concerts and events. We utilize the information, comments, and suggestions to assess our impact in order to continually improve our communication with and impact upon the community, both locally and beyond.

Cover letter

- Roberts-Cover-Letter-2022.pdf

Board list

- WCFH-Board-of-Directors.pdf

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- WCFH-tax-exempt-letter.pdf

Financial statement

- WCFH-990-2019.pdf

Last year operational budget

- Annual-Budget-FY20-21.pdf

Current year operational budget

- Annual-Budget.FY21-22.pdf

Balance sheet

- WCFH-Balance-sheet-Sep-30.2021.pdf

Project budget

- Project-Budget-Excellence-in-the-Arts-2022.pdf

Does your organization produce an annual report?

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No

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

No

Other materials?

- 2022-WCFH-Festival-Program.pdf

This application was completed by Daniel Matz on behalf of WCFH

Have you contacted the Executive Director by email or phone to discuss this proposal?

Yes

Is your cover letter signed by your senior executive? on your letterhead? with your official office address?

Yes