

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 63

Is your organization a 501(c)3 nonprofit?

Yes

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

New Britain

Where will your project be performed or exhibited?

New Britain

Will this activity occur after August 1, 2023?

Yes

Are you a recent grantee?

Yes

Enter your Report Code

182892-Roberts2020

Organization Name

Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

760822196

Principal Contact Name

Adrian Sylveen

Title

Executive Director

Email

adrian.sylveen@thevirtuosi.org

Phone

(860) 305-6661

Address

19 Chestnut Street
New Britain, Connecticut 06051
United States
[Map It](#)

Website

<http://www.thevirtuosi.org>

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Amount requested this application

\$10,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

The mission of the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra has been to preserve and perpetuate the great traditions of chamber orchestral music through the expansion of the public performance season, educational programs, and by showcasing the excellence of regional and international talent. In the choice of repertoire, The Virtuosi gives particular interest to music from Eastern Europe.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

Established in 1997, the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra is Connecticut's premier professional chamber orchestra. We are dedicated to presenting traditional and contemporary works to the community. As artists, we strive to be cultural leaders and inspire audiences through the beauty and quality of classical music.

Led by founder and artistic director, Adrian Sylveen, Virtuosi presents up to 30 performances each season in orchestral concerts, operas, and school presentations in New Britain.

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

The average demographics of audiences served by the Virtuosi's concerts and operas are as follows: 50% Female, 50% Male, 90% White/Caucasian - with a high ethnic percentage of Eastern Europeans or of Eastern European heritage, 5% Black/African American, 5% Hispanic/Latino, Asian, and Other Races. The performances attract audiences comprised of 25% who are 18-35 years old, 35% who are 35-55 years old, and 40% 55 and older. Our concerts and performances are deeply rooted in the Eastern European classical tradition, although the repertoire represents a wide range of classical music and opera. Our concerts have a strong following in the New Britain community.

Our programs in Title 1 schools in New Britain serve 43% Hispanic/Latino, 32% Caucasian and Ethnic Minorities, including Eastern European, 19% African-American/Black, and 6% Asian and Other Races. Of the population served, 42% of households are low-income and 56% of the overall population is low- to moderate-income .

Describe your organization's governance.

The orchestra is governed by a board of 20 members. The board meets bi-monthly, or more often as needed. The board averages 65% attendance throughout the year, with options to attend via conference call or virtual meeting, as appropriate to the situation. The board reviews the organization's finances as part of the meeting agenda and records meeting minutes.

Describe the diversity of your board.

The Virtuosi's board of 20 members is reflective of the communities we serve. The board is 50% Female and 50% Male. Of the board members, 65% are Eastern European nationals who are now U.S. citizens or of Eastern European descent. The Virtuosi orchestra was originally founded under the Polish American Foundation and still reflects these roots. Our board is committed to supporting Virtuosi's performances in New Britain and Hartford.

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

Board members are regularly contributing to the orchestra, both in forms of donations and by building relationships with other community organizations. Prof. Biskupski, Chair of the Polish studies at CCSU, significantly contributes to the orchestra. Each

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year, we perform at CCSU and receive substantial payments for some of these performances. This long-standing relationship is one that we treasure. All board members contribute to the well-being of the orchestra in one form or the other.

Project Name

2020-2021 Performance Season

Project Description

Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra's 2020-2021 Performance Season, as follows:

October 2020 – COVID Remembrance by composer John Kane

November 2020 - Opera Johann Strauss - Die Fledermaus

CCSU Annual Christmas concert with the Moniuszko Choir

December 2020 CCSU Annual Christmas Concert with the Moniuszko Choir

February 2021 - Opera Mozart - Don Giovanni

Fully staged with the CT Lyric Opera Young Artists Program

March 2021 Bach Cantatas

Christian Kotsis, baritone (Vienna), a collaborative effort between communities of the First Presbyterian Church of Hartford, Cyril and Methodius Church and Church of the Good Shepard

May 2021 Puccini - La Boheme

Fully staged with the CT Lyric Opera : The production will also include young singers from the Virtuosi Academy Hartford Program

May/June 2021 Beethoven - Triple Concerto

Brunilda Myftaraj, violin

Lida Pali, cello

Blake Hansen, piano

The Virtuosi Youth Baroque Ensemble will open for the orchestra

Total estimated project budget

\$102,370.00

Project start/opening

10/01/2020

Project end/closing

05/31/2020

Project venue

Trinity on Main in New Britain, and the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford

Project town

New Britain, Hartford, Farmington

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

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In prior years, our orchestral concerts and operas have attracted audiences ranging from 150-1,500 depending on the venue and event. This year, due to COVID guidelines and social distancing, we anticipate smaller audiences overall. We will work closely with our venue partners on COVID protocols to ensure the safety of our audiences and artists. Our ticketed events are as follows: \$15 - \$30 suggested donation at Trinity On Main and \$25 - \$35 suggested donation at the Wadsworth Atheneum.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

The Virtuosi's 2020-2021 Performance Season will be promoted and marketed on our website, eblasts and mailing distribution to our established audience. Also, our performances will be promoted on our partnering venues websites, in press releases, broadcasting, on our Facebook and social media pages, and by our partnering houses of worship and community based organizations. The upcoming schedule of performances will be listed in the event programs, as well.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

Funding from the Roberts Foundation will be used to support artistic wages, as follows: Artistic Director, Orchestra artists fees, Operations Manager, Soloists, Technical – sound and lighting, and Administration.

The Virtuosi supports local artists through employment of more than 27 musicians annually. We provide employment to opera singers with our partner organization, Connecticut Lyric Opera (CLO). We also present internationally renowned artists, each year, in our performances.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

Support from the Roberts Foundation will be recognized on our website (www.thevirtuosi.org), Facebook page (Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra @ctvirtuosi), email distribution to our constituents, event programs, press releases, brochures, posters and flyers to advertise the events, and will be announced as part of our opening remarks prior to each performance.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

The Virtuosi defines artistic excellence as displaying an exceptional depth of understanding and skill in artistic expression. The Virtuosi's dedication to artistic excellence is at the heart of its annual performance season. As one of the state's most active musical organizations, we perform in up to 30 chamber music, symphonic concerts, fully staged operas, choral concerts, and a wide range of community and educational programs, each year.

Our Founding Executive Director, conductor and virtuoso violinist, Adrian Sylveen maintains a roster of professional, high-caliber musicians, and delivers an exceptionally high standard of performance in presentations for the audiences we serve.

Mr. Sylveen is a graduate of Paderewski Music Academy in Poznan, Poland and Yale University School of Music. Our musicians are graduates of prestigious music schools including Yale University's School of Music, the Hartt School of Music, and other institutions around the world.

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

The Virtuosi orchestra is among the most versatile and active of Connecticut's musical organizations. It includes chamber music, symphonic concerts, fully staged operas, choral concerts, and an array of community and educational programs. Altogether it comprises of more than 30 public performances each year (40 if we include projects abroad). Publicly available recordings of Virtuosi performances reflect the level of our artistry and can be accessed on YouTube, our website, and our Facebook page.

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Our definition of artistic excellence is at the heart of our work. Our local, regional, and international projects have proven extremely beneficial to the audiences and communities we serve. They exemplify our commitment to bringing the art of orchestral music to audiences throughout the state and providing opportunities to exceptionally talented local musicians.

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

The Virtuosi's local, regional, and international projects have proven extremely beneficial to the audiences and communities we serve. They exemplify our commitment to bringing the art of orchestral music to audiences throughout the state and providing opportunities to exceptionally talented local musicians.

Our presentations of classical music in the Eastern European tradition are important to the development of a vibrant cultural landscape in New Britain. Our events attract tourism to New Britain from throughout the region. Our contribution allows visitors to experience New Britain as a cultural destination, as well as explore all that the city has to offer.

The Virtuosi ensures that the performances are accessible and affordable for everyone, regardless of income. We believe in the principle of free-will admission. Admission to orchestral concerts is by suggested donation, and admission to operas is affordably priced with significant discounts for students and seniors.

How will this project be evaluated?

Goals and Objectives:

- The successful presentation of the concerts and operas this season, which will be held in accordance with social distancing and other COVID-19 state requirements.
- Reach new and existing audiences during COVID by using our social media platforms, press releases, and broadcasting to livestream performances, in partnership with our technical team.
- Promote and market the series to attract diverse audiences from New Britain neighborhoods and the Greater Hartford area. Ticket sales may be lower than usual due to social distancing requirements at venues, and the anticipation that some of our regular audience may be hesitant to attend a live concert due to COVID-19.
- By observing audience response to performances, as well as feedback during and after the performance, and on our social media pages.
- Maintaining a balanced budget and fulfilling all financial obligations
- Submission of all required reports on or before the due date.

Cover letter

- [Virtuosi-Cover-Letter-8.3.pdf](#)

Board list

- [CV-Board-of-Directors.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [CV-501c3.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [CT-Virtuosi-990-2019-signed.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

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- [CV-2019-2020-Budget.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [FY-2021-CV-Operating-Budget-ver-07-27-20.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [FY-2020-NB-Hartford-project-budget-vs-actuals-1.pdf](#)

Project budget

- [FY-2021-CV-Project-Budget-ver-08-03-20.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

No

Grant Report

- [Connecticut-Virtuosi-Chamber-Orchestra-Inc.-Grantee-Reporting-Form- -Entry-56.pdf](#)

The Virtuosi orchestra is financially sound and has maintained a balanced budget continually for more than 23 years. Other information about this request is as follows:

The Virtuosi will work closely with our venue partners as we anticipate presenting concerts and operas within the purview of state COVID-19 protocols. With this in mind, we anticipate few audience members due to social distancing and possible hesitancy to attend a live performance. We will closely follow COVID-19 guidelines to ensure the utmost safety for our audiences, artists, and staff.

Performing venues for the 2020-2021 Performance Season will be Trinity On Main in New Britain, the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, the Garde Performing Arts Center in New London, the Santo Fragilio Center in Middletown, and Central Connecticut State University's Welte Hall.

The Virtuosi will work with school partners to present music education program to New Britain students, based on work from the performance season.

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

Notes



Admin Notification (ID: 5e0a490a5c999)

added August 3, 2020 at 7:29 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.



Submission Confirmation (ID: 5e0f7526b33d3)

added August 3, 2020 at 7:29 pm

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