

**Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 79**

**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?**

Hartford

**Will this activity occur after August 1, 2023?**

Yes

**Are you a recent grantee?**

Yes

**Enter your Report Code**

137005-Roberts2020

**Organization Name**

Connecticut Chopin Foundation, Inc.

**Organization's IRS Tax ID #**

455228356

**Principal Contact Name**

Michael Kilian

**Title**

President

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[Map It](#)

**Website**

<http://www.chopincompetition.org>

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### Amount requested this application

\$6,000.00

### What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

The *Connecticut Chopin Foundation* was founded to promote the music of Fryderyk Chopin and expand the opportunity for young worldwide talented musicians to compete and perform at an international level. Our primary mission is to promote the music of Frederick Chopin and attract worldwide young musicians to expand their careers by providing them with an opportunity to compete and perform at a higher standard of international competition.

### Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

Chopin International Piano Competition was Founded in 2010 by Krystian Tkaczewski to commemorate the bi-centennial anniversary of Chopin's birth.

Our annual international competition was previously held at the Polish National Home located in Harford, Connecticut. In 2016, the competition changed its venue to the Theater for Performing Arts in Hartford, CT.

Since 2018, Chopin International Piano Competition takes place in Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, CT. This church has a professional infrastructure, enabling excellent practice and performing opportunities.

In our previous competitions, our participating artists represented five continents and 28 countries. Our laureates consist of prize winners of such competitions as Busoni, Sendai, Bachauer and Horowitz. Our panel of international judges was represented by such countries as Austria, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan and USA. The Chopin Competition in Hartford received various recognitions and awards from State and Federal government officials and was hailed by *Fox News* as: "the most important musical event in the opening of the year in the State of Connecticut."

The XI edition of Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford took place at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, CT on March 11-14, 2020. Our competition attracted many talented pianists from such countries as USA, Canada, Vietnam, China, Russia, Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, Lithuania, Poland, and others. The jury included outstanding musicians from Poland, USA, Mexico, Israel, Ukraine and Belgium. We received 73 applications. International judging panel included:

- Krystian Tkaczewski, Poland-internationally awarded concert pianist
- Myrthala Salazar, USA- President of Parnassos Piano Competition in Monterrey, Mexico
- Philippe Raskin, Belgium, Professor of University of Music in Brussels
- Boaz Sharon, Israel/USA-professor of Boston University
- Stanislav Khristenko, Ukraine-winner of Cleveland International Piano Competition
- Maestro Piotr Sulkowski, Poland-director of Olsztyn Philharmonic Orchestra
- Michael Bulychev-Okser, Russia/USA, artistic director of Gershwin International Music Competition in New York.

Even though the world pandemic was unfolding during the competition and travel restrictions were being put in place, there were a total of 50 pianists that participated. Despite the uncertain situation, many traveled from such places as California, Florida, Ukraine and Austria. We were able to organize a successful competition while adhering to all the recommended CDC guidelines, which included sanitation of all pianos, hand disinfection and social distancing

Our winners were invited to perform at many concert venues. Because of our international cooperation following pianists, laureates of previous editions were provided an opportunity to perform in Poland in summer 2021:

- Chopin International Festival in Busko-Zdroj:  
Olivia Yang (USA) Norman Lu (USA) Anfisa Bobylova (Ukraine), Maxine Park (USA), Joonhyoung Park (South Korea)
- International Festival in Kurozweki Castle, Poland:  
Ella Cho (USA), Phillip Hoover (USA), Ariel Gurevich (USA)

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Connecticut Chopin Foundation, Inc. is also an co-organizer of numerous musical concerts, promoting previous winners of our competition. In May 2020, we presented a jubilee V Paderewski International Piano Competition in Farmington, CT. We have converted the format of this competition to the online formula. We have received 150 recordings of pianists from 30 countries which were evaluated by judges from Poland, USA, Indonesia and Japan.

Moreover, Connecticut Chopin Foundation is co-organizer of overseas events like:

- Chopin International Piano Festival in Busko-Zdroj, Poland

It is a festival exclusively for winners of international piano competitions around the world. We had 25th edition of festival in July 2019 with pianists from such countries as: Poland, USA, China, Lithuania, Taiwan, Russia, Germany, Japan and many others.

- Krystian Tkaczewski International Piano Competition in Busko-Zdroj, Poland

This piano competition was launched in 2015. In 2020 we had to convert to the online format with over 200 pianists representing 38 countries. Judges came from such countries as: Poland, Russia, Iceland, Japan, Australia and Hong Kong.

- International Festival Ambassador of Tarnow Maestro Krystian Tkaczewski and his Guests in Tarnow.

It is a unique festival, where all participants have an opportunity to perform with professional orchestra. Students can perform in prestigious venues as: Mirror Hall, Paderewski Manor in Kasna Dolna and Penderecki European Center.

- International Festival in Kurozweki Castle, Poland

All concerts and classes take place in XIV-century palace. It is a unique opportunity to perform concerts in renaissance style concert hall.

We are immensely proud with the collaboration with our artistic director Maestro Dr. Krystian Tkaczewski. He is internationally acclaimed concert pianist, and his professional affiliations enrich the development of our foundation. Thanks to his connections, winners of the competition had an opportunity to perform among others at Carnegie Hall and at Chopin International Festival in Busko Zdroj, Poland, where maestro Tkaczewski is an artistic director as well. In 2021, we plan to present our Chopin competition winners in different venues within the State of Connecticut (as soon as the health situation will allow).

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

Despite the uncertain situation, many traveled from such places as California, Florida, Ukraine and Austria. We were able to organize a successful competition while adhering to all the recommended CDC guidelines, which included sanitation of all pianos, hand disinfection and social distancing. Anyway the current situation has strongly influenced the demographics data. We would like to present the demographic table from the previous year.

#### Demographics: Winners Concert of X Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford, CT

##### Audience by Age Group

Children (12 and under)	53
Teens (13 -18)	70
Adults (22-40)	95
Adults (41-61)	74
Seniors (62+)	55
TOTAL	347

##### Audience by Geography

Hartford Residents	117
Capital Region residents outside Hartford	89

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CT residents outside the Capital Region	53
Out of State Visitors	88
TOTAL	347

**Describe your organization's governance.**

Michael Kilian, President

Dr. Krystian Tkaczewski, Artistic Director

Irma Lange, Treasurer

Jola Koza, Director

Jackie Borkowski, Director

Agnieszka Henel, Director

Board meets on the quarter basis with full attendance.

**Describe the diversity of your board.**

The Board of Directors consists of six members (four women, two men). There are represented following ethnicities: Polish, German, Argentinian, Italian. I would like to mention that our mission is to promote the music regardless of the worship, gender, race, origin.

In our competition had representatives from Europe, North America, South America, Africa, Asia and Australia. Our volunteers, staff and invited artists represented many ethnicities as Asian, African-American, Latin and Caucasian.

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

Members of Board of Directors of Connecticut Chopin Foundation don't make personal financial contributions to our foundation .

**Project Name**

XII Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford- "2021 Special Online Edition"

**Project Description**

As the pandemic continues to escalate, and the uncertainty of future domestic and international travel restrictions, the Board of the Connecticut Chopin Foundation has decided to organize a XII Chopin International Piano Competition "2021 Special Online Edition." I strongly believe that this special virtual edition will provide an opportunity for pianists who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford to travel and compete in USA. I also believe that "2021 Special Online Edition" will give domestic pianists an opportunity to compete in an international level competition, during a situation where competing and performing live may not be possible. Judging panel will evaluate recordings of pianists from around the world. The jury will evaluate all submissions and provide an opportunity for the selected pianists to perform on March, 7, 2021 in a virtual Winners Concert, streamed worldwide.

**Total estimated project budget**

\$18,700.00

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### Project start/opening

03/03/2021

### Project end/closing

03/07/2021

### Project venue

virtual competition

### Project town

Hartford/New Britain/virtual

### Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

We have decided to increase the number of the age categories to facilitate the participation of more pianists in various age ranges. Young Musicians- Up 10 (not reaching 11<sup>th</sup> birthday), Juniors – Up 13 (not reaching 14<sup>th</sup> birthday), Young Virtuosi- Up 16 (not reaching 17<sup>th</sup> birthday), Young Artists-Up 19 (not reaching 20<sup>th</sup> birthday), Professional – no age limit

### How do you intend to promote/market this project?

The conversion to the virtual format generates the need to change our advertizing strategy. Our Staff and volunteers will contribute much effort to reach pianists and convince them to submit an application. As I said before, We will stream online the Winners Concert of XII Chopin International Piano Competition. We are going to send thousands of invitations to the local schools, universities and music lovers, who will be able to follow the concert online or watch later as an archive file.

### How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

If granted a full amount (6000 USD) we plan to distribute the award in following way:

- 4000 USD towards prizes for participating pianists
- 2000 USD towards judges' honorariums

### How will Roberts support be recognized?

CCF is extremely grateful for a longtime support of Roberts Foundation. It helps us in the sustaining the highest level of our competition. In last four years we placed Roberts Foundation as a "Diamond Sponsor" in our donors list. Also, in 2021, we will be delighted to place Roberts Foundation as a "Diamond Sponsor" in our promotional materials. The logo of Roberts Foundation will we placed in all official materials as: booklets, posters, programs and competition website.

### What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

The Chopin International Piano Competition has risen to the level, at which is recognized worldwide as one of leading Chopinesque events. It annually brings the most talented pianists from the furthest parts of the world to Hartford. **Umi Garrett** – winner of piano competitions in Budapest and Osaka, **Shuan Hern Lee**, completed his college (Bachelor's) in the age of 12. Winner of 80 prizes in piano competitions worldwide. First Prize at Van Cliburn Piano Competition in 2019, **Sun-A Park-**

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Winner of famous piano competitions.

Harmony Zhu, -

World Junior Chess Champion., **Anfisa Bobylova**, award winning international pianist.

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

In the history of Chopin International Piano Competition we have decided to invite world-class experts, recognized internationally, not only locally: Veda Kaplinsky, Chair of Piano Department of Juilliard School, Matti Reakallio, Stephan Moeller, University in Vienna, Jerome Rose, Winner of Busoni, Olga Kern, winner of Van Cliburn, Stanislav Khristenko, Winner of Cleveland Competition.

Finally, we are happy to announce that five of our former winners were selected from the group of over 500 pianists to participate at the oldest and most prestigious piano competition around the world- International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland, which is going to be held in October 2021.

The 2021 Special Online Edition will create an opportunity for both domestic and international pianists to compete in the time where live performances are strongly limited. They will be able to compete and receive the prize pool of 5000 USD and numerous invitations to the events in Poland and USA.

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

I believe that the local community benefits strongly each year from this project:

- We invite excellent international experts, pianists to the City of Hartford. In the course of years, we brought world authorities from all over the world.
- We believe that bringing of international experts and pianists has a strong impact on the education of local pianists and students who strongly contribute from contacting their international counterparts. Such artistic connections frequently develop into lifetime collaborations. Each year we distribute many free invitations and tickets for local students and teachers. We have many local pianists competing in our competition. Each year this number increases, what can be considered as a raising trend. We were also touched that during 2020 edition some members of our loyal audience decided to attend the competition regardless current health situation.

### How will this project be evaluated?

We expect the participation of over many pianists from places very distant places and countries, They will be evaluated by the professional panel of judges:

- Krystian Tkaczewski, Poland-internationally awarded concert pianist
- Adolfo Vidal, Venezuela- artistic director of Teresa Carreno International Master Competition
- Nikita Fitenko, Russia - Professor of Catholic University in Washington, D.C.
- Stanislav Khristenko, Ukraine/USA-Winner of Cleveland International Piano Competition
- Maestro Piotr Sulkowski, Poland- Director of Olsztyn Philharmonic Orchestra

The project will be evaluated as successful with the following criteria: high level of expertise of the competitors, high class of invited adjudicators, number of submissions, positive feedback of the audience and media.

### Cover letter

- [img080.pdf](#)

### Board list

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- [CCF-Board-Members.pdf](#)

### **IRS 501(c)3 determination letter**

- [8.-Connecticut-Chopin-Foundation-501c3-designation-letter.pdf](#)

### **Financial statement**

- [CT-Chopin-Fdtn-2019-Financial-Statement-1.pdf](#)

### **Last year operational budget**

- [CCF-Last-Year-Operational-Budget-2019.pdf](#)

### **Current year operational budget**

- [CT-Chopin-Foundation-Operational-Budget-2020.pdf](#)

### **Balance sheet**

- [CCF-Balance-Sheet.pdf](#)

### **Project budget**

- [Connecticut-Chopin-Foundation-Project-Budget.pdf](#)

### **Does your organization produce an annual report?**

No

### **Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?**

No

### **Grant Report**

- [Connecticut-Chopin-Foundation-Grantee-Reporting-Form-.pdf](#)

### **Other materials?**

- [img083.pdf](#)
- [Poster2020c-compressed-1.pdf](#)
- [BookletHartford2020a\\_compressed.pdf](#)

The adjudication process will be done through the evaluation of recordings with the required repertoire. Jury working from their place of residence will evaluate all pianists and select the winners of the competition. Most successful winners will perform at the virtual winners concert presented on March 7, 2021- streamed online globally. I believe such a formula will provide a motivation to the pianists to practice and develop their skills in the time when participation at the live musical events is hardly

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possible. After suggestion from Ms. Curran, Executive Director of Roberts Foundation, The Board of Directors has agreed that presenting the live competition in March could be too optimistic and could interfere with State travel restrictions. We believe that virtual competition can open a new market and exposure for the competition and bring more candidates in future live editions.

**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