

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 145

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

Krystian Tkaczewski

Title

Artistic Director

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Address

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United States
[Map It](#)

Website

<https://chopincompetition.org>

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Amount requested this application

\$8,000.00

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 world-wide talented musicians to compete and perform at an international level. The CCF was founded in 2012 as a non-profit organization and presently holds a 501 (c) (3) status. The board of directors meets on a quarterly basis which is attended by all members and our annual meeting is held in October.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

Our annual international competition was previously held at the Polish National Home located in Hartford, 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. Because of the world pandemic, the 2021 edition was presented as a virtual competition. In our previous competitions, our participating artists represented five continents and 43 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."

Our winners were invited to many concert venues. Because of our international cooperation with International Chopin Festival in Busko-Zdroj, Poland following pianists, laureates of 2021 edition will perform in Poland: Karlo Ivancic (Croatia), Xinran Shi (USA), Maxine Park (USA), Samuel Sabbah (Norway). Karlo Ivancic as a Grand Prize winner will receive an opportunity to perform as a soloist with Tarnow Chamber Orchestra within International Festival Ambassador of Tarnow Maestro Krystian Tkaczewski and his Guests in Tarnow, Poland in August 2022. Some Winners of competition will be also presented during Connecticut Chopin Foundation annual fundraiser concert in February- May 2022 in Farmington, CT.

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

The Special edition -2021 attracted 140 pianists from: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kosovo, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Vietnam. Despite these limitations, our virtual concert was viewed by over 2000 spectators. We didn't charge any fee for online access to the event.

Describe your organization's governance.

Michael Kilian, President, Irma Lange, Treasurer, Dr. Krystian Tkaczewski, Artistic Director, Jackie Borkowski, Director Agnieszka Henel, Director, Jola Koza, Director, Board meetings are held once a year (full attendance), none directors make personal financial contributions to the organization.

Describe the diversity of your board.

The Connecticut Chopin Foundation cares about diversity: there are two men and four women on the Board of Directors. There are also immigrants represented. The heritage of the Board members is Polish, Italian and Argentinian. Two of them are retired, four employed or self-employed.

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

Nobody from the Board of Connecticut Chopin Foundation makes personal financial contributions to their organization.

Project Name

XIII Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford, CT

Project Description

The Board of the CCF decided to organize a XIII Chopin International Piano Competition as a live event – March 9-13, 2022. The competition will take place at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, CT. We hope that coming live edition will attract many talented pianists from USA and abroad. We hope that the opening of borders will facilitate the participation of international pianists. All age categories are presented here: Piano Talents- up 10 years old (not reaching 13th birthday), Junior- Up 13 (not reaching 14th birthday), Young Artists-Up 17 (not reaching 18th birthday), Professional – no age limit. Monetary awards: First Prize, Category Professional -2000 USD, Second Prize , Category Professional – 700 USD, Third Prize, Category Professional- 500 USD, First Prize in Category Young Artist – 500 USD, Second Prize, Category Young Artist 200 USD, Third Prize, Category Young Artist 100 USD, Total Special Prizes in value of 1000 USD.

Total estimated project budget

\$25,500.00

Project start/opening

03/09/2022

Project end/closing

03/13/2021

Project venue

Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, CT

Project town

Hartford, CT

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

The XIII Chopin International Piano Competition auditions will take place on March 9-12, 2022 daily starting 10 AM. The Winners Concert and Award Ceremony on March 13, Time TBD. The admission to the competition auditions is free. The tickets for Winners Concert and Award Ceremony are in the price of 25 USD. We plan to distribute free tickets to members of local community. Because of the pandemic restrictions it is difficult to predict the correct number but will aim in the 200 spectators.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

We plan to advertise our event in local newspapers as: Hartford Courant, New Britain Herald, local radio stations. We have created the network of our audience and will send emails to them. We will advertise domestic and international music universities and schools to attract the highest number of potential candidates.

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How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

If granted a full amount (8000 USD) we plan to distribute the award in following way:

- 4000 USD towards prizes
- 2000 USD towards judges' honorariums
- 2000 USD towards rental costs

How will Roberts support be recognized?

As in recent years, we will place Roberts Foundation as "Diamond Sponsor" in our promotional materials. The logo of Roberts Foundation will be placed in all official materials as: booklets, posters, programs and competition website. Information about sponsoring will be released while advertising in media, newspapers and internet portals. Finally, Roberts Foundation will be mentioned at Winners Concert and Awards Ceremony as a diamond sponsor on March 13, 2022

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

CIPC is recognized worldwide as one of leading Chopinesque events. It brings most talented pianists from the furthest parts of the world to Hartford. Just recently, our alumni JJ Bui, Canada became a prize winner of XVIII International Chopin Competition in Warsaw- most famous piano competition in the world. He was the youngest participant selected out of the group of 500 people). **Avery Gagliano, USA**- Grand prize winner of junior category in 2012- Winner of National Chopin Competition in Miami, Semi-finalist of XVIII Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland. **Shuan Hern Lee, Australia**- I Prize winner of Junior Category 2012 Piano Prodigy. Winner of over 80 prizes in the piano competitions worldwide. The finalist of Australia's got talent. First Prize at Van Cliburn Piano Competition in 2012

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

Furthermore, we believe the excellence in arts can be only achieved by inviting world-class experts, recognized internationally. We have invited famous pianists and piano professors as our adjudicators, to mention a few:

- Prof. Veda Kaplinsky, Israel- Chair of Piano Department of Juilliard School
- Jong Hwa Park, South Korea- Professor of National University in Seoul, South Korea
- Armen Babakhanian, Armenia- winner of Cliburn International Piano Competition and Leeds International Piano Competition.
- Prof. Yunjie Chen, China- professor of Central Conservatory in Beijing, China.
- Prof. Matti Reakallio, Finland-Juilliard School
- Adam Golka-Gilmore Prize
- Prof. Luiz de Moura Castro, Brazil-Hartt School
- Prof. Stephan Moeller, Germany, University in Vienna
- Professor Jerome Rose, Winner of Busoni Piano Competition
- Olga Kern, Russia- winner of Van Cliburn Piano Competition
- Stanislav Khristenko, Ukraine-Winner of Cleveland International Piano Competition

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

We invite international experts from USA, Poland, Russia, Italy, Greece, Hungary, Brazil, Austria, France, Spain, Mexico, Japan, China, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, South Korea, Armenia, Israel and Taiwan. It is a rare opportunity for audience to interact with esteemed artists and listen to their performances. We believe that bringing of international artists has a strong impact on the education of local students who strongly contribute from contacting their international counterparts. Such connections frequently develop into lifetime collaborations. Each year we distribute many free tickets

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for local students and teachers. Each year this number increase. Finally, we have an increased number of local pianists interested in attending our Winners Concert.

How will this project be evaluated?

The Chopin International Piano Competition will be judged by international experts:

- **Dr. Krystian Tkaczewski, Poland**-internationally awarded concert pianist
- **Prof. Adolfo Vidal, Venezuela**- artistic director of Teresa Carreno International Master Competition
- **Prof. Nikita Fitenko, Russia** - Professor of Catholic University in Washington, D.C.
- **Prof. Pavel Neressian Russia/USA**-Professor at Boston University
- **Dr. Igal Kesselman, Israel**- Director of Moses Talent Music School at Kaufmann Center, NY.

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

- [Connecticut-Chopin-Foundation-Cover-Letter.pdf](#)

Board list

- [Connecticut-Chopin-Foundation-Board-Members.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [8.-Connecticut-Chopin-Foundation-501c3-designation-letter-1.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [Connecticut-Chopin-Financial-Statement-09.30.2021.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [CT-Chopin-Foundation-Operational-Budget-2020-1.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [Connecticut-Chopin-FOundation-current-year-operational-budget.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [Connecticut-Chopin-Balance-Sheet-12.31.2020.pdf](#)

Project budget

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- [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-1.pdf](#)

Other materials?

- [Connecticut-Chopin-Form-990-2020.pdf](#)
- [Connecticut-Chopin-990-N-2020.pdf](#)

Our previous competitions have been well attended, received the highest reviews from audience, and acclaim in the press. The previous editions of Chopin International Piano Competition attracted pianists from 43 countries and five continents, representing following countries: USA, Grenada, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Ecuador, Poland, Guatemala, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, France, Kosovo, Italy, Moldova, Norway, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Indonesia, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, New Zealand, Australia. The level of pianists was exquisite and attracted the audience and international judges. What is most important, we bring highest caliber art to the city of Hartford and its inhabitants. The opportunity of arrival of worldwide piano prodigies to our State brings the new opportunities to music students and music educators.

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