

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 213

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

734421-Roberts2020

Organization Name

Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, Inc.

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

760822196

Principal Contact Name

Adrian Sylveen

Title

Artistic and 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://thevirtuosi.org>

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Amount requested this application

\$12,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

The mission of the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra is 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, special attention is given to music from Eastern Europe.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

The organization was founded in 1997 by artistic director and conductor Adrian Sylveen. His idea was to create an independent musical organization dedicated to the goals of artistic excellence and social relevance for the ethnic communities of central Connecticut. The Orchestra continues to grow in its scope of performance and educational programs. In recent years, Virtuosi has expanded its educational programs. These include the Virtuosi Summer Music Institute and Festival, the Greve Opera Academy & Music Festival, and a new Virtuosi Music Academy at the First Presbyterian Church in Hartford. Together with Virtuosi's longstanding New Britain in-school performance series, the organization's variety of educational programs represents its ongoing commitment to engaging communities through innovative performance-based musical education. The Virtuosi's regular annual performance season includes more than 30 symphonic, chamber orchestra, opera, and educational performances, mainly in the New Britain/ Hartford area. We bring remarkable artists from Italy, Israel, Lithuania, Connecticut, and others from around the world to perform in venues in Hartford, New Britain, and other Connecticut towns. After a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we resumed outdoor live performances in 2020-21 and an entire season of indoor performances in 21-22. We also obtained the equipment and expertise needed for quality live streaming of our concert events, first on Facebook, and now on YouTube. We were one of the few performance organizations in Connecticut that offered live concerts during the summer and fall of 2020 and continued to perform without interruptions until now.

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

The estimated demographics of the audiences at our performances served are as follows: 85% White/Eastern European, many of whom are immigrants of Polish or Eastern European heritage, and a substantial portion of our audience are immigrants who have acquired or who are seeking U.S. citizenship, 5% Black/African-American, 5% Hispanic Latino, and 5% Asian and Other Races.

Describe your organization's governance.

We are governed by a board of 20 members. The Board meets approximately every 3 to 6 months with good attendance. During the last year or so, meetings have generally been by Zoom due to the social distancing recommendations. The structure of the orchestra administration is attached.

Describe the diversity of your board.

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 Europeans who are now U.S. citizens or of Eastern European descent. The Virtuosi was founded under the Polish American Foundation and still reflects these roots.

We are seeking more representatives from diverse CT populations. We have minorities represented on our School Advisory Committee & in the planning group for our Academy in Hartford.

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

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

2022-23 Season of Concerts and Opera in Hartford and New Britain

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

No

Project Description

We request \$12,000 for our 22-23 season in New Britain & Hartford. It will consist of concerts in New Britain and Hartford as part of our NEA supported "We The People – Immigrant Stories" series, and 2 fully-staged operas in collaboration with the CT Lyric Opera.

Concerts also include the well-known Polish Christmas featuring notable works of Polish composers.

The three performances scheduled for the season are part of a "We the People" series. These three concerts represent immigrants' experiences, voices, and artistic contributions to the United States, and will feature distinguished composers & soloists.

The season also features 2 fully-staged operas: Mozart's Don Giovanni and Verdi's Tosca, co-produced with CT Lyric Opera, with two performances of each production in central Connecticut. One is in Trinity-on-Main Arts Center and the Other is the Belding Theatre at the Bushnell Center for The Performing Arts.

Please see the attached schedule for the Season.

Total estimated project budget

\$162,300.00

Project start/opening

11/01/2022

Project end/closing

06/30/2023

Project venue

Hartford: Seaverns & Belding @ Bushnell, New Britain: Museum for American Art, Trinity-On-Main

Project town

Hartford, New Britain

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

Admission to the concerts and operas at Trinity-On-Main, and to events at the New Britain Museum of American Art is by suggested donation, from \$15-\$30. No one is turned away due to an inability to pay. We expect our opera performances to

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be at the Belding Theater. Tickets at that venue generally range from \$35 to \$75. Our We The People Series in Hartford will be held in the Seaverns Room at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts. Prices are being finalized.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

We hired a part-time PR coordinator who promotes through FB, Youtube, and Constant Contact. She also sends announcements to online and print publications and calendars. She is also arranging interviews with local radio stations, etc. Our venue partners, including Trinity-on-Main, the New Britain Museum of American Art, and the Bushnell, have all agreed to help promote our events to their patrons. We found that these new partners helped us reach new and wider audiences in 21-22 season.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

We will use the funds to support the core programming. The money will be used for core musicians' salaries, soloists' and composers' fees, etc.

The Virtuosi has a very healthy financial structure, using only about 7% of the budget for administrative costs.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

We place the Roberts name or logo on our website. The Foundation's logo is featured on video live streams and all our concert programs. We also issue a press release announcing our funding. Many concerts are streamed live or presented as archived videos on our YouTube channel. We feature our main sponsors on all recent broadcasts.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

In seeking to express their true nature, people create art in myriad forms. This connection between our humanity and creativity is a reflection of who we are. Artistic excellence is rooted in our human nature, on both personal and social levels, and reflects our desire for beauty. We define artistic excellence as the display of an exceptional depth of understanding and skill in creating or relaying creative, impactful artistic expression. Our dedication to artistic excellence is seen in our annual season, which includes over 30 performances, most also live-streamed, of chamber music, symphonic concerts, fully staged operas, choral concerts, and an array of community and educational programs. It is also evident in our audio and video recordings, archived on thevirtuosi.org, YouTube, and Facebook. Our international projects generate artistic collaborations which benefit our concerts throughout the state and provide unique opportunities for exceptionally talented local musicians.

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

Our definition of artistic excellence is at the heart of our work. 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 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.

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

Post-COVID, there is a hunger to reconnect and to enjoy what is beautiful and sustaining, both to individuals and the community. We were gratified to see the enthusiastic response to the return of opera and to live musical performances. Our concerts at the New Britain Museum were nearly sold out. Our new venues in the beautiful Bushnell raise our visibility and add to the overall experience.

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The community benefits from local and affordable access to great musical performances and exposure to the art of other cultures. A vibrant arts sector contributes to the general health and well-being of the community and its economy. Our concert series adds to the synergy between local arts venues and local arts organizations in building active and exciting art and culture calendar for both Hartford and New Britain.

Our performances have attracted audiences from other cities and counties in Connecticut. The audiences benefit from the cathartic and pleasurable, beautiful performances.

How will this project be evaluated?

Goals and Objectives:

- The successful presentation of the concerts and operas this season will be held in accordance with any applicable state or venue COVID-19 requirements.
- Reach new and existing audiences using our social media platforms, press releases, and broadcasting to live stream 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. Continue to rebuild our live audience in our exciting new venues.
- 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.

Cover letter

- [2022-07-31-Cover-Letter-Roberts.pdf](#)

Board list

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

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [501-c-3-Virtuosi-FINAL.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [CVO-990-2021.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [2022-CV-Operating-Budget-and-Expenditures.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [FY-23-Virtuosi-Budget-GENERAL-REVISED-1.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [Webster-Bank-Balance-Sheet-Virtuosi-July-31-2022.pdf](#)

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Project budget

- [2023-CV-PROJECT-Budget-Concerts-Operas-Hartford-New-Britain-1.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

No

Grant Report

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

Other materials?

- [2022-05-Cesare-Program.pdf](#)
- [2022-06-CVO-We-The-People-program.pdf](#)
- [FLEDERMAUS-PROGRAM.pdf](#)
- [CVCO-2022-23-Season-Outline-and-Featured-Artists.pdf](#)

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

No

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

Yes