

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 208

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?

Hartford

Will this activity occur after August 1, 2023?

Yes

Are you a recent grantee?

Yes

Enter your Report Code

864342-Roberts2020

Organization Name

Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Hartford

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

474302697

Principal Contact Name

Ann Drinan

Title

Grants Consultant

Email

adrinan@comcast.net

Phone

(860) 690-4988

Address

19 Walden St
West Hartford, Connecticut 06117
United States
[Map It](#)

Website

<https://www.asofhartford.org/>

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 208

Amount requested this application

\$10,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

The Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Hartford (ASOFH) features an annual national competition for young organ students, with winners receiving awards to further their musical education. The purpose of the Festival is to encourage young organists and to enhance the area of organ education – both to support young people studying the organ and to increase general appreciation of organ music of the past and present.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

The Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival / Hartford was founded in 1997 by David Spicer, Music Minister at the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, and Dr. Harold Robles, founder and former president of the Albert Schweitzer Institute for the Humanities. The Festival features an annual competition for young organists in both high school and young professional divisions. From dozens of applications, up to six finalists – three per division – are selected based on the submission of a paid application and audition CD, which are reviewed by three screening judges. This procedure was changed for the 2018 Festival, after a Strategic Planning process was completed. The two divisions – high school and young professional – now alternate years, with the high-school division competing in September 2018 and 2021 (there was no competition in 2020 because of COVID) and the young-professional division competing in 2019 and 2022.

Every Festival includes a concert that features the organ. In the past this concert has presented the three judges in recital, or a local chorus performing with an organ. In 2019 ASOFH presented a major concert with the Hartford Symphony and Christopher Houlihan at Trinity College Chapel. We plan to present an even more amazing concert in October 2022 with the Hartford Symphony at Mortensen Hall at The Bushnell, featuring organist Paul Jacobs playing the Bushnell's Austin organ.

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

Our audience is comprised of organists and organ students, and lovers of organ music from throughout greater Hartford, southern New England, and much farther afield. We attract Hartford Symphony attendees as well, as the HSO will market this concert along with their regular series. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we hope to make the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival a destination event for greater Hartford by promoting "An Organ Extravaganza!" far and wide.

Describe your organization's governance.

The ASOFH Board was formed in 2015 to take over the governance role previously fulfilled by the Church Board of the Wethersfield church. The Board members include many prominent organists in the greater Hartford area, as well as several from the mid-west and Europe. The Board meets several times a year to set policy and make plans for the upcoming competition and Festival weekend. 100% make personal donations to ASOFH, and attendance is about 85% at each meeting.

Describe the diversity of your board.

The ASOFH board is comprised primarily of area organists and educators. The board is quite diverse, with several persons of color, members of the LGBTQ community, and women. The board is always aware of the advantage of bringing as many differing voices as possible into leadership roles, while understanding the necessity of including persons with a strong, professional background in organ music and practices.

20% African-American

10% Asian

30% Female

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 208

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

100%

Project Name

ASOFH Festival Concert 2022

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

No

Project Description

The Festival concert on October 22, 2022 will involve three rehearsals with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, one at the HSO's rehearsal hall and two at Mortensen Hall at The Bushnell. The HSO will provide a full orchestra, with a full string complement, plus Maestra Carolyn Kuan, stage hands, a music librarian, and support staff.

The program will begin with Camille Saint-Saens's Symphony No. 3, the "Organ Symphony," with the Hartford Symphony and Alexander Pattavina, the 2019 winner of the ASOFH Young Professional competition.

After intermission, the concert features Paul Jacobs, chair of the organ department at The Juilliard School. After several solo works, Mr. Jacobs will perform Michael Daugherty's "Once Upon a Castle" for organ and orchestra. The music is inspired by both the life and times of American media mogul William Randolph Hearst, Hearst Castle, and the Hollywood lore of Charles Foster Kane, a fictional character based on Hearst in the movie "Citizen Kane."

Total estimated project budget

\$149,025.00

Project start/opening

10/18/2022

Project end/closing

10/22/2022

Project venue

Mortensen Hall at The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts

Project town

Hartford

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

One performance at 4:00 PM October 22, 2022 at Mortensen Hall, The Bushnell.

250 Premium Orchestra seats @ \$75

750 Orchestra seats @ \$55

100 Student tickets @ \$10

Premium Mezzanine seats @ \$55

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 208

General Mezzanine seats @ \$35

Rear Mezzanine seats @ \$15

100 Comp Tickets

Estimated ticket income = \$40,000

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

We have advertised in "The Diapason" and "The American Organist Magazine" (TAO) - the two largest national publications for professional organists. We will purchase print and radio advertisements in greater Hartford (*The Courant*, WNPR, WFCR), send eblasts to our lists, use Facebook marketing, enter the concert in all online calendars, and send out a press release to all media outlets in greater Hartford and New York City.

We attach the print ad to this proposal.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

ASOFH will use funding from the Roberts Foundation to help pay the performers.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

The Roberts Foundation logo will be prominently displayed on all print and online publications, as well as on our website and in our eblasts.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

ASOFH attracts some of the most gifted organ students from across North America and then serves to inspire them toward even higher levels of performance in terms of repertoire, technique and expression. The Festival presents the top organ talent among young players, both high-school and young professional, to the greater Hartford community. The Festival is extremely well-respected in the organ community, and attracts applicants from all major organ departments nationally. Following the decisions made during our strategic-planning process of alternating divisions and significantly increasing our prize money, ASOFH is poised to become one of the three or four most important organ competition festivals in North America.

The Festival concert is one that features the organ. Traditionally, the jurors have each given short recitals, with a chorus performing with the organ. The 2019 Festival concert broke this mold, and the 2022 concert will be even more fantastic.

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

The October 22 concert is intended to be exactly what the coined name implies - an organ extravaganza, featuring one of the pre-eminent professional organists in the country. Mr. Jacobs, a GRAMMY award-winner, was recently named the 2021 International Performer of the Year by the New York City chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Mr. Jacobs was also the first winner of ASOFH's Young Professional competition in 1998.

We hope that, by featuring the first and the most-recent winners of the ASOFH competition, the concert will inspire the current contestants and the organ students in attendance. The concert will also go a long way towards showcasing this mighty pipe organ to the general audience.

The Bushnell's Austin organ is one of the finest concert hall organs in the United States. Sadly, this magnificent organ is rarely heard. ASOFH's October 22 concert is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to show off Hartford's hidden treasure to our community and to visitors alike.

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 208

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

The audience will benefit by experiencing the majesty of The Bushnell's organ, by hearing one of the top organists in the world perform solo works and a piece written for organ and full symphony orchestra, and in hearing a "rising star" organist perform with the Hartford Symphony.

It is most unfortunate that the Bushnell's Austin organ is not played more frequently. We know of only three concerts in the past ten years that featured this organ. The experience of hearing this organ played at full complement (not as an orchestral instrument) while sitting in the orchestra seats in Mortenson Hall is an awe-inspiring sensation, because the 5,409 pipes are embedded in the mammoth sidewalls of Mortensen Hall. Crafted by Hartford's Austin Organ Company in 1929 and fully restored in 1988, it is one of the finest instruments this world-renowned firm ever built.

How will this project be evaluated?

The concert will be evaluated by the number of attendees, any reviews we receive from the press, and comments from participants (particularly from Carolyn Kuan and Paul Jacobs), audience members, orchestra members, and board members in attendance.

The Board of Directors, comprised primarily of accomplished area organists, meets the Monday after the Festival to discuss the weekend in detail, including lessons learned, successes and challenges, and plans for the next Festival.

Cover letter

- [ASOFH-Cover-Letter-2022-for-Roberts-Foundation.pdf](#)

Board list

- [ASOF-Board-of-Directors-2022.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [ASOFH-501c3-Designation.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [2022-Fiscal-ASOF-Financial-Report-2022_06_30.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [FY22-ASOF-Hartford-Budget.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [FY2023-ASOF-Hartford-Budget.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [2022-Fiscal-ASOF-Financial-Report-2022_06_301.pdf](#)

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 208

Project budget

- [ASOFH-2022-Project-Budget.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

Yes

Grant Report

- [Albert-Schweitzer-Organ-Festival-Hartford-Grantee-Reporting-Form-.pdf](#)

Other materials?

- [ASOFH-Ad-2022.pdf](#)

ASOFH alternates years between a High-School competition and a Young Professional competition. The concert presented for the latter is much more elaborate and expensive than the opening festivities for the high-school competition.

Our fiscal year is July 1 to June 30, and our Festival is usually in late September. (It's being held in October in 2022 because of construction happening at The Bushnell in September.) Many of the income and expenses shown in the financial statement for FY22 are actually for the October 2022 concert, which happens in FY23. So, even though the 2021 Festival (in FY22) was a high-school competition with no concert, the income and expenses are high because of the 2022 (FY23) concert being held at The Bushnell. (I know this is confusing - this grant writer always has to stop and think for a minute to get it straight!)

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