

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 345**Are you a 501(c)3 organization in good standing with the IRS?**

Yes

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

Manchester

Where will your project be performed or exhibited?

West Hartford

Will this activity occur after August 1, 2023?

Yes

Are you a recent grantee?

Yes

Enter your Report Code

152396-Roberts2022

Organization Name

Connecticut Summerfest

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

475031850

Principal Contact Name

Maria Paterno

Title

Development Manager

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(630) 338-3490

Address

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[Map It](#)

Website<https://www.ctsummerfest.org/>

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 345**Amount requested this application**

\$5,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

Connecticut Summerfest brings together talented emerging composers with some of the country's most inventive chamber music ensembles for a week-long festival of artistic exchange culminating in nine world premieres. The festival provides the Greater Hartford community with contemporary music concerts of the highest caliber through a nightly concert series featuring three ensembles-in-residence and brand-new pieces written by festival composition students. Full mission <http://tinyurl.com/mry6vzt3>

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

Connecticut Summerfest has two audiences: composer applicants and concertgoers. Composer applicants must be 18 years of age or older. Past attendees have been as young as 18 or over age 50 and practicing composition as a second career. Approximately 47% of applicants this year identified as composers of color. Audience members are primarily residents of the Greater Hartford region. Because our concert series is free and not ticketed, we are not able to get demographic information on attendees.

Describe your organization's governance.

Connecticut Summerfest was founded by co-directors Aaron N. Price, Artistic Director, and Gala Flagello, Festival Director. The board meets annually to discuss the season's festival, and all four board members attend this meeting. All staff are also invited to attend the annual meeting. There have been no substantial changes to Connecticut Summerfest's leadership.

Describe the diversity of your board.

Our board is made of four members. 25% identify as African American and 75% identify as white. 50% identify as men and 50% identify as women. 50% identify as LGBTQ+.

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

Three of our four members (75%) make personal financial contributions to Connecticut Summerfest. The fourth member was brought on as an advisory member without the expectation of financial contribution.

Project Name

Kinsmen Sound Studio at Connecticut Summerfest 2024

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

No

Project Description

Connecticut Summerfest is an annual contemporary music festival that brings together talented emerging composers with innovative chamber music ensembles. Our 2024 festival will take place from June 6–12. The festival offers rehearsals, private lessons, and seminars for composers, as well as a concert series that is free and open to the public. One of the most crucial takeaways for both festival participants and audience members are recordings and livestreams produced by Kinsmen Sound Studio.

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This year, we are thrilled to be featuring three incredible ensembles: ~Nois, Haven Trio, and Black Moon Trio. Our composition faculty members are Ivette Herryman Rodriguez, Gilda Lyons, Jeff Scott, and Christopher Theofanidis.

A grant from your organization in support of Kinsmen Sound Studios at Connecticut Summerfest would enable us to continue to bring high-quality performances of contemporary classical music to the Greater Hartford area and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Total estimated project budget

\$47,240.00

Project start/opening

06/06/2024

Project end/closing

06/12/2024

Project venue

The Hartt School at the University of Hartford

Project town

West Hartford

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

Our 2024 festival will take place from June 6–12, 2024, with our concert series occurring from June 7–11. The first three concerts, which will occur at 8PM on June 7 and 8 and 3PM on June 9, showcase each of our ensembles-in-residence. The final concert at 8PM on June 11 is an Evening of Premieres. All four concerts are not ticketed and free to attend, and we anticipate approximately 700 views between our in-person and livestream audiences (150 in person, 550 online).

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

Social media is our primary marketing vehicle, as we see the most impact through these profiles. We use targeted social media ads, regular posts to keep our audiences engaged, and e- mail newsletters that go out to donors, festival alumni, and university professors.

For the concert series, our marketing campaigns include photos and videos from the previous season, as well as materials highlighting the upcoming resident artists and composers, who can share these posts with their own circles.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

A grant from the Roberts Foundation would support Kinsmen Sound Studio. Founded by alumni from The Hartt School at the University of Hartford, Kinsmen Sound Studios will record, edit, and livestream our concert series, in addition to providing festival composers with professional video and audio recordings. Their expertise will ensure that festival composers receive polished recordings that bolster their portfolios, and that audiences get to enjoy high-quality concerts streamed online.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

Support from the Roberts Foundation will be recognized in our concert program booklet, on our website, and on our social media platforms as appropriate.

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What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

At Connecticut Summerfest, we seek out performers and composers who are interested in a collaborative, in-depth, educational, and exploratory experience. We value relationships; we are interested in participants looking to form lasting, meaningful artistic relationships, who are respectful of all musical styles and backgrounds.

Our nine festival composers are selected through a blind adjudication process. Personal information is removed from the scores and recordings submitted in order to help our expert adjudicators evaluate applicants based solely on the quality of their music, rather than any perceived biases. In choosing our ensembles-in-residence, we seek out actively-touring chamber groups who are excited to collaborate with composers and perform new music at a high level.

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

The success of Connecticut Summerfest relies heavily on enthusiastic artistic collaboration. We carefully select ensembles that not only are excellent performers, but also excited about collaborating with festival composers on new works. As composers themselves, the recording technicians at Kinsmen Sound Studio are also intimately familiar with the intense collaboration required to record and present a piece of music that truly showcases both the writing and the performance. It is only through the hard work, flexibility, and creativity of our resident artists, festival composers, and partners at Kinsmen Sound Studio, that we will be able to present our annual concert series and deliver on our mission of providing the Greater Hartford community with contemporary music concerts of the highest caliber.

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

The festival is a way for audience members to experience contemporary music free of charge. Our concerts make new music accessible to audiences of the Greater Hartford area, surrounding underserved towns, and online viewers around the world. We also hope to benefit the new music community on a broader scale, by providing emerging composers with an opportunity to receive a well-rehearsed performance of their music and a professional recording of their new piece for their portfolio, as well as new community connections for everyone who participates. It is our goal that the collaborations started by Connecticut Summerfest continue even after the festival has ended.

How will this project be evaluated?

There are three areas we use to determine the success of our festival: audience attendance, participant experience, and future collaborations.

Audience attendance: We anticipate approximately 700 impressions total (150 in person audience members and 550 livestream views) across the four concerts in our annual series.

Participant experience: After the conclusion of the festival in June, we send surveys to the ensembles, faculty members, and festival composers who participated so we can learn from their feedback and continue improving.

Future collaborations: Our long-term goal for festival composers is that they form a lasting, collaborative relationship with their selected ensemble and that their piece receives repeat performances, or even that they continue working with their ensemble! This goal can take months or even years to come to fruition, but we have seen several previous ensembles continue to perform the pieces that were written for them at Connecticut Summerfest.

Cover letter

- [CTSF-Executive-Letter-FY24.pdf](#)

Board list

- [CTSF-Board-List.docx.pdf](#)

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 345**IRS 501(c)3 determination letter**

- [CTSF-IRS-Det-Letter.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [CTSF-FY-2023-990.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [CTSF-2023-Operational-Budget.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [CTSF-2024-Operational-Budget.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [CTSF-Balance-Sheet-2024.pdf](#)

Project budget

- [CTSF-2024-Project-Budget.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

No

Grant Report

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

Please note that as Connecticut Summerfest's only project is our festival in June, our organizational and project budgets are the same. The project budget outlines confirmed and pending grant requests.

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