

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 387**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?

New Britain

Where will your project be performed or exhibited?

Hartford

Will this activity occur after November 1, 2024?

Yes

Are you a recent grantee?

Yes

Enter your Report Code

CODE - 658610-Roberts2022

Organization Name

Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, Inc.

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

760822196

Principal Contact Name

Adrian Sylveen

Title

Artistic / Executive Director

Emailadrian.sylveen@thevirtuosi.org**Phone**

(860) 305-6661

Address

19 Chestnut Street
New Britain, Connecticut 06051
United States
[Map It](#)

Website<http://thevirtuosi.org>

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 387**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 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. Our 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. The Virtuosi's regular annual performance season includes more than 30 symphonic, chamber orchestra, opera, and educational performances, mostly in the New Britain/ Hartford area. We bring remarkable artists from Italy, Israel, Lithuania, Poland, Connecticut, and others worldwide to perform at venues in Hartford, New Britain, Farmington, New London, and other Connecticut towns. We have also begun performing concerts in the New York City metro area, including at the famed Carnegie Hall. In New Britain, we perform at the New Britain Museum of American Art and Central Connecticut State University. In Hartford, our regular season is at the Bushnell Center for the Arts in partnership with the First Presbyterian Church, with additional performances at Cyril & Methodius Church. We also have performed at the Wadsworth Atheneum. In recent years, the Virtuosi has expanded its educational programs. These include the Virtuosi Summer Music Institute and Festival, the Greve Opera Academy & Music Festival in Italy, and the Virtuosi Music Academy at the First Presbyterian Church in Hartford. Along with Virtuosi's longstanding New Britain in-school performance series, the organization's various educational programs represent its ongoing commitment to engaging communities through innovative performance-based musical education.

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

The estimated demographics of the audiences at our performances 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 are seeking U.S. citizenship; 5% Black/African-American, 5% Hispanic Latino, and 5% Asian and Other Races. The students in our New Britain school performances reflect the demographics of the New Britain community and are quite diverse.

Describe your organization's governance.

Board list is attached. The Board meets approximately every 3 to 6 months with good attendance.

Administration:

Adrian Sylveen – Founder & Artistic Director (adrian.sylveen@thevirtuosi.org)

Adrian Elliott – Development Coordinator

Daniell Keane – Grant Writer

Mr. Matthew Burry – Accountant

Cassandra Moore – Assistant Development Coordinator

Walter Gibson – Personnel Manager & Community Artistic Adviser

Luca Rinaldi – Greve Academy Orchestra Coordinator (Italy)

Sofia Sylveen – Visual Service

Describe the diversity of your board.

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 387

CV board is reflective of the communities we serve. The board is 40% Female and 60% Male. 65% are Eastern European nationals or of Eastern European descent. The Virtuosi was founded under the Polish American Foundation and still reflects these roots. The Board includes minorities. We are seeking more representatives from diverse CT populations. We also have minorities represented on our School Advisory Committee and in the planning group for the Virtuosi Academy in Hartford.

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

Board members are regularly contributing to the orchestra, both in forms of donations and by building relationships. For example: Prof. Biskupski, Chair of the Polish studies, significantly contributes to the orchestra. Each year, we perform at CCSU and receive substantial payments for these performances. CEO of the TOMZ Corporation, Zbig Matulaniec, is another good example. TOMZ donates to the Virtuosi every year. All members contribute to the orchestra in one form or the other.

Project Name

2024-2025 Connecticut Virtuosi Season in Hartford and New Britain

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

No

Project Description

We are requesting \$12,000 for our 24-25 season in New Britain and Hartford. It will consist of concerts in New Britain and Hartford:

- Three concerts, "We The People—Immigrant Stories," will represent immigrants' experiences, voices, and artistic contributions to the United States and will feature the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra with distinguished composers and soloists.
- Two concerts at Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford featuring the newly installed 1940 Austin organ.
- An annual Polish Christmas concert at CCSU featuring notable works of Polish composers and Christmas Music.
- Virtuosi will also support Connecticut Lyric Opera in 2 projects/operas: Puccini's La Bohème and Davis' Amistad or Verdi's Rigoletto, with a performance of each at the Bushnell Center for The Performing Arts.

'Please see the attached schedule of the performances for the 2024-25 Season. We understand that Roberts Foundation funding may not be used for any activities before November 1.

Total estimated project budget

\$127,195.00

Project start/opening

11/01/2024

Project end/closing

06/30/2025

Project venue

Bushnell, First Presbyterian Church, Cyril & Methodius, New Britain Museum of America, CCSU,

Project town

Hartford & New Britain

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 387

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

Admission to events at the New Britain Museum of American Art is by museum admission fee. No one is turned away due to inability to pay.

Our We The People Series in Hartford will be held at First Presbyterian Church and promoted and ticketed by the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts. Ticket prices are generally \$35.

Opera tickets at the Bushnell for opera generally range from \$35 to \$85.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

We contract with a PR company, BuzzEngine that helps us get interviews on radio and TV. We also promote our events through Facebook, Youtube, and emails from Constant Contact. Our venue partners, including the New Britain Museum of American Art, and the Bushnell, and CCSU have all agreed to help promote our events through their regular publicity.

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 healthy and lean 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 also printed among sponsors in all our programs, regardless of the concert location.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

In seeking to express their true nature, people create art in myriad forms. This demonstrated connection between our humanity & creativity is a reflection of our nature & desire. Artistic excellence is rooted in our human nature, on both a personal and social level, 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 demonstrated in our history of annual seasons, which includes over 30 performances of chamber music, symphonic concerts, 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 & Facebook. Our international projects generate artistic collaborations that benefit our community and students throughout the state and provide unique opportunities for exceptionally talented artists.

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. Its season includes chamber music, symphonic concerts, fully staged operas, original commissions of new works, choral concerts, and an array of community and educational programs for youth. Publicly available audio and video recordings of Virtuosi performances reflect the level of our artistry and can be accessed on YouTube, our website, and our Facebook page. Our concerts are used as the basis for our educational programs in New Britain. Our We The People series reflects the beauty and humanity of immigrant experiences and artistic contributions from many different countries and cultures.

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

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 387

The community benefits from a rich offering of excellent local and affordable access to world-class musical performances, artists, 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 helps build an active and exciting arts and culture calendar for both Hartford and New Britain.

Our We The People, Immigrant Stories series helps to promote awareness of and celebrate the diversity of cultures within the wider community. Our programs include moving spoken word pieces and personal stories of our featured artists. We find that when people hear from individual immigrant artists about their personal experiences and are introduced to the artistic contributions of different immigrant groups, these events help build a bridge between cultures. Such performances are also inspirational for young musicians, especially since many artists are from the local region.

How will this project be evaluated?

Measures of Success:

The successful presentation of the concerts and operas this season within the planned budget

Reach new and existing audiences using our social media platforms, press releases, and broadcasting to live stream performances, in partnership with our technical team.

Successful promotion that attracts growing and diverse audiences from New Britain neighborhoods and the Greater Hartford area.

Observed and expressed 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.

Continued partnerships with venue locations as demonstrated by scheduling of future performances.

Cover letter

- [Cover-Letter-for-the-Roberts-Foundatin-2024.docx.pdf](#)

Board list

- [2024-07-31-CV-Board-.xlsx-Sheet-1-contacts.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [CV-501c3-1.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [Form990Package-2-1.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [FY-24-CT-Virtuosi-Budget-and-Actuals-Preliminary-figures.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [FY-25-CV-Operating-Budget-Sheet1.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 387

- [2024-07-31-CV-Balance-Sheet-xlsx-Sheet1-1.pdf](#)

Project budget

- [FY-25-CV-Project-Budget-Roberts-Foundation.xlsx-Sheet1.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

No

Grant Report

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

Other materials?

- [Connecticut-Virtuosi-2024-2025-Featured-Artists.pdf](#)
- [Virtuosi-2024-2025-Hartford-and-New-Britain-Events.pdf](#)

Please know that the 2023–2024 figures are preliminary. We will be examining and reporting final figures in a few weeks. We are returning to a balanced operation, with only a small deficit of approximately \$300. Furthermore, we have increased the amount of private donations and working on rebuilding and indeed expanding the support educational offerings in Hartford and in New Britain.

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