

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 417**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?

Hartford

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

277068-Roberts2022

Organization Name

Hartford Chorale Inc

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

060884892

Principal Contact Name

Sarah Armstrong

Title

Executive Director

Emailadmin@hartfordchorale.org**Phone**

(860) 547-1982

Address

233 Pearl St, Box 17
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
United States
[Map It](#)

Website<https://hartfordchorale.org/>

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Amount requested this application

\$12,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

Hartford Chorale is a volunteer not-for-profit organization that presents, on a symphonic scale, masterpieces of great choral art throughout southern New England and beyond, serving as the primary symphonic chorus for the Greater Hartford community. Through concerts and collaborations, the Chorale engages the widest possible audiences with exceptional performances of a broad range of choral literature, providing talented singers with the opportunity to study and perform at a professional level.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

Founded in 1972, Hartford Chorale performs works ranging in style from a capella motets to great oratorios and everything in between – classic to contemporary, and has offered critically acclaimed performances of major choral/orchestral masterworks. While our most popular offerings include Handel's 'Messiah' and Beethoven's 'Symphony No. 9 (Choral)', some of our other "greatest hits" include:

Bach – St. John Passion, Mass in B Minor, Christmas Oratorio

Beethoven – Missa Solemnis, Symphony No. 9 (Choral), Mass in C, Choral Fantasy

Berlioz – Te Deum

Bernstein – Chichester Psalms

Bonds (Margaret) - Credo (with Harlem Chamber Players)

Brahms – Requiem

Britten - War Requiem (with Hartt Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir)

Brubeck – Joy in the Morning

Durufle – Requiem, Op. 9

Hurd (David) - In Honor of Martin

McCartney – Liverpool Oratorio

Mozart – Requiem, Mass in C

Orff – Carmina Burana

Prokofiev – Alexander Nevsky

Rutter – Gloria, Requiem

Vaughan Williams – Hodie, Dona Nobis Pacem

Verdi – Requiem, Aida (with Connecticut Opera)

Xian Xinghai – Yellow River Cantata (with the Kang Hua Singers of Greater Hartford)

We have also premiered works by Dave Brubeck, Raphael Fusco, and Edward Diemente, and commissioned works from Alice Parker, Fred Tillis, Dan Campolietta, Sarah Meneely-Kyder, and Scott Perkins.

Approximately 6,000 audience members attend Hartford Chorale performances each season in concert halls and churches throughout Connecticut. We encourage high school and college students to join our intern program – a unique offering with scholarship opportunities. Potential members are also introduced to the Chorale through open rehearsals and public "conclaves" which provide community enrichment and educational experiences. 2024's conclave, "African American Spirituals: A National Treasure," was held at The Artists Collective and welcomed over 125 guests.

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

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An estimate of our demographics:
African American : 15%
Asian: 15%
Caucasian: 60%
Hispanic and or Latino: 10%
A sample of our audience from our self-produced spring 2024 concert shows representation from nearly all of the Connecticut counties, the majority (76%) coming from Hartford county, and 11% from neighboring New England towns.

Describe your organization's governance.

We are pleased to welcome our new executive director, Sarah Armstrong, who started with us in September of 2024. The Chorale's Board of Governors includes 9 officers and 19 members at large. The entire board meets four times a year with ad hoc meetings as necessary. Average attendance is 90%.

Describe the diversity of your board.

Female: 61%
Male: 39%
Asian American/Pacific Islander: 14%
Black/African American/West Indian: 7%
White: 79%
Hartford Chorale is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion where board members, staff, volunteers, and members feel respected and valued regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation or identity, disability, education, or any other bias.

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

100%

Project Name

Vox Feminae: A Celebration of Women Composers

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

No

Project Description

On May 16th Hartford Chorale presents choral works by two exciting American women composers:

- Rosephanye Powell is a highly commissioned African American composer whose dramatic spoken word and choral work “The Cry of Jeremiah” premiered at Lincoln Center in 2012. Additionally, the Chorale will present two short works by Powell: “Arise, Beloved!” and “To Sit and Dream.”
- Jocelyn Hagen’s “The Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci” combines exquisite choral music accompanied by large screen video projections taken from Da Vinci’s notebooks, creating a unique and exciting concert experience.

The selected pieces are some of the best in contemporary choral work, and we plan to deliver a multimedia program that is sure to inspire while highlighting the diverse and rich contributions of women to classical music. Once again, we will contract directly with Musicians Union AFM local 400 to employ diverse vocal and instrumental musicians so that our stage reflects the community we serve.

Total estimated project budget

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\$58,750.00

Project start/opening

05/16/2025

Project end/closing

05/16/2025

Project venue

The Bushnell-Belding Theater

Project town

Hartford

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

The Belding Theater seats 908, and we hope to fill every one of them for this one-night-only performance. Regular admission will be approximately \$40, and \$10 for college students and anyone 18 and under. We will offer 75-100 comp tickets for financial sponsors and selected community organizations that support underserved youth.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

Hartford Chorale will send announcements to our direct mail and e-mail lists and post on our website. Print media including articles in regional and local newspapers and ads in newspapers will be used, and PSAs sent to local and arts-focused radio stations. Posters and flyers will be mailed and distributed via digital media, including e-blasts and Facebook.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

This concert will be presented with a chamber orchestra, soloists, and the chorus with audio/visual production. Estimates for artist costs are \$27,875 for the orchestra, soloists, and vocal section leaders to support the chorus at rehearsals and performance. Without this funding, our artistic excellence will be in jeopardy.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

- Acknowledgement in our season announcement, mailed to 2,500+ households
- Acknowledgement in all concert press releases, media advertising, posters, flyers
- Verbal acknowledgment from the stage, usually done by the Chorale President
- Your full-page color ad in our program book
- Acknowledgement on the donor page in the program book
- Your logo on the Chorale website's page with a link to your website, if desired
- Other considerations as discussed

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

Artistic excellence is the shared experience of singing together for our audiences and ourselves, having brought to our performances our time, talent, and heartfelt dedication under the leadership of a skilled team of musical directors and vocal section leaders. This is why Hartford Chorale is regarded as Hartford's premier symphonic choral organization with a repertoire ranging from classical to contemporary, and we are sought out to partner with other artistic organizations in Greater Hartford and New England.

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The Chorale's Artistic Director, Jack Anthony Pott, brings a wealth of experience in classical vocal and choral performance and direction, as well as thoughtful leadership to our artistic programming. He is also well-networked amongst Connecticut's musical and artistic community, ensuring that we partner with other organizations that bring the same level of commitment to artistic excellence.

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

It is our mission to present on a symphonic scale, masterpieces of great choral art throughout southern New England and beyond, serving as the primary symphonic chorus for the Greater Hartford community. We believe that symphonic choral music is for everyone and our self-produced concerts allow us the best opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to DEIA. 'Vox Feminae' (which means "A Woman's Voice" in Latin) will continue the Hartford Chorale's commitment to presenting the finest music from varied and diverse composers and include voices that have historically been marginalized. As demonstrated in previous seasons, we will be employing musicians (both vocal and instrumental) that reflect the community we are a part of. Funding from the Roberts Foundation is a critical part of this success.

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

Audience appeal for major works with symphonic choruses remains high, but very few organizations have the history, depth, and skills to carry out these productions. Hartford Chorale, with its history as the primary symphonic chorus in the region and proven record of successful, self-produced concerts can undertake such productions and bring them to a wide audience. Our self-produced concerts and events of the last few years have put a particular emphasis on bringing historically marginalized voices and topics in classical music to the fore and making them more accessible to our community.

'Vox Feminae' will continue this emphasis, showcasing two highly regarded women composers. We will increase accessibility by offering free admission to college students and anyone under the age of 18, and target some promotion and/or offer free admission to selected area organizations that serve and support women and girls.

How will this project be evaluated?

Hartford Chorale events are evaluated on several criteria, that could include:

- Programs meet artistic excellence goals
- Member surveys on artistic programming
- Audience surveys on programming, venue, other
- Feedback from partners and press
- Programs meet audience attendance goals
- Programs meet financial goals

After this concert, we plan to solicit performer and audience feedback, gathering important facts and feedback, comments on Marketing (how they heard about the concert), Artistic Excellence and suggestions for future programming. Audience attendance numbers are examined for appropriate growth. Financial goals will also be evaluated (i.e., Did we make budget? Did this project bring in new donors and did traditional donors increase support?)

Cover letter

- [2024-Roberts-HC-Cover-Letter.pdf](#)

Board list

- [HC-Board-of-Governors-FY24_25-wAdd.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

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- [08-HC-IRS-determination-letter-1.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [HARTFORD-CHORALE-INC---2022-990.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [Hartford-Chorale-Aug-24-1-Balance-Sheet.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [HC-Annual-Budget-FY24_25.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [Hartford-Chorale-Sep-24-Balance-Sheet.pdf](#)

Project budget

- [HC-VF-Budget-2025.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

Yes

Strategic plan

- [HC-Strategic-Framework-2024-5-7.pdf](#)

Grant Report

- [Hartford-Chorale-Grantee-Reporting-Form-.pdf](#)

Now in our 53rd season, Hartford Chorale is excited for the upcoming year, buoyed by the success of both new and long-standing artistic and funding partners. Our strategic plan has served us well, and we look forward to revising it for the future. Our commitment to DEIA is deliberate and visible to all. We are most fortunate to maintain a balance sheet that has and continues to sustain us. The Roberts Foundation is a valued partner and so important to our ability to “keep the song strong.” The generosity you have shown to the Chorale is critical to our success, and we thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

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

Yes

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

Yes