

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 409**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

318077-Roberts2022

Organization Name

Connecticut Chopin Foundation

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

455228356

Principal Contact Name

Krystian Tkaczewski

Title

Artistic Director

Emailhartfordchopincompetition@gmail.com**Phone**

(860) 920-9658

Address

20 Marshall st, Apt 6
New Britain, Connecticut 06053
United States
[Map It](#)

Website<https://chopincompetition.org>

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\$10,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

The Connecticut Chopin Foundation was founded in 2012 as a non-profit organization and presently holds a 501 (c) (3) status. Our primary mission is to promote the music of Frederick Chopin and attract worldwide young musicians to expand their careers by providing them with an opportunity to compete and perform at a higher standard of international competition.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

Chopin International Piano Competition was founded in 2010 by Krystian Tkaczewski to commemorate the bi-centennial anniversary of Chopin's birth. Our competition was previously held at the Polish National Home located in Harford, Connecticut. In 2016, the competition changed its venue to the Theater for Performing Arts in Hartford, CT. Since 2018, the competition takes place in Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, CT.

In our previous competitions, participating artists represented five continents and 44 countries. Our panel of international judges was represented by such countries as Austria, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan and USA. The Chopin Competition in Hartford received various recognitions and awards from State and Federal government officials and was hailed by Fox News as: "the most important musical event in the opening of the year in the State of Connecticut."

Our winners were invited to many concert venues. Because of our international cooperation with International Chopin Festival in Busko-Zdroj, Poland following pianists, laureates of 2024 edition performed in Poland: Che Li (China), Elizabeth, Levine (USA), Ayla Moreno (Japan/USA) and Lin Kai Zhang (Canada). Hanwen Shi (China), Haruki Takeuchi (Japan) and Sophia Popescu performed as a soloist with Tarnow Chamber Orchestra within International Festival Ambassador of Tarnow Maestro Krystian Tkaczewski and his Guests in Tarnow.

Connecticut Chopin Foundation, Inc. is also an co-organizer of numerous musical events our as:

- Paderewski International Piano Competition in Farmington, CT
- Chopin International Piano Festival in Busko-Zdroj, Poland
- Krystian Tkaczewski International Piano Competition in Busko-Zdroj, Poland
- International Festival Ambassador of Tarnow Maestro Krystian Tkaczewski and his Guests in Tarnow.

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

Chopin International Piano Competition attracts diverse audience. Each year about 80 pianists come to Hartford to take part in our contest. They usually come to Hartford from all over the world. In the history of Chopin Competition, we hosted pianists from such distant countries as: Australia, China, Japan, Brazil, Guatemala and many European countries.

Each year we notice the increased number of local teachers and students who attend Chopin Competition, especially its Winners Concert.

Describe your organization's governance.

Michael Kilian, President, retired 8603313231

Dr. Krystian Tkaczewski, Artistic Director, concert pianist, ktkaczewski@gmail.com

Irma Lange, Treasurer, Webster Bank ilange@websterbank.com

Jackie Borkowski, Director, Service Press President, jackie@servicepress.net

Agnieszka Henel, Director, piano teacher, 8609209731

Jola Koza, Director, retired

Jarlath Paul Ramoya, Director, financial advisor

The Board meets on the quarter basis with a full attendance.

Describe the diversity of your board.

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There are people of diverse ethnicity:

Mike Kilian - Italian heritage

Krystian Tkaczewski - Polish heritage

Agnieszka Henel- German heritage

Jarlath Paul Ramoya, originally from Kenya, member of African-American community

Jola Koza- Polish heritage

Irma Lange- Latin-American community

Jackie Borkowski- Polish heritage

Woman 57% - Men 43%

Ethnicity: Polish heritage 43%, Italian 14.25%, German 14.25%, Latin American 14.25%, African-American 14.25%

Race: White 86%, Afro-American 14%

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

According to the last year suggestion of Roberts Foundation, all members of Board of Director make financial contributions.

Project Name

XVI Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford, CT

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

No

Project Description

XVI Chopin International Piano Competition will take place on March 12-16, 2025 at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, CT. We expect the participation of many pianists from various countries. They will be evaluated by the professional panel of judges:

- Krystian Tkaczewski, Poland-internationally awarded concert pianist
- Michael Bulychev-Okser, USA- Artistic Director of Gershwin International Music Competition in New York
- Marcella Crudeli, Italy - Artistic Director, Roma International Piano Competition
- Vladimir Soultanov, France- Artistic Director of Heuts-de-France International Piano Competition
- Andrea Turini, Italy- Professor of Conservatory in Pesaro
- Prof. Yang Xiting, China-Deputy President Huaqiao University in Xiamen, China.

The competition is open to all pianists, regardless of a nationality and age.

Categories:

- Piano Talents- up 10 years old
- Junior- Up 13
- Young Artists-Up 17
- Professional – no age limit

Total estimated project budget

\$30,700.00

Project start/opening

03/12/2025

Project end/closing

03/16/2025

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Project venue

Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, CT

Project town

Hartford, CT

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

March 12 - 9 - 5 PM Category "Professional" , 6-9 PM Category Young Artists - Free admission
 March 13- 9 - 7 PM Category Young Artists - Free Admission
 March 14 9- 3 PM - Category "Professional" Final Round, 5 PM-9PM - Category Junior - Free admission
 March 15 9- 12 PM Category Junior, 2- 9 PM Category Young Talents Free admission
 March 16, 4 PM winners concert - General admission 25 \$, Students 15 \$, Children up 12 free
 We estimate: 100 General, 50 Students, 50 children, 100 comp.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

We will engage in the advertisement of the competition and will attempt to gather talented pianists to participate at the 2025 edition of the competition. We will pass the significant number of tickets and invitations to local students and musical teachers. Event will be advertised in local media, newspapers as Hartford Courant, New Britain Herald. The competition will be again the member of prestigious Alink-Argerich Foundation (society for important piano competitions around the world).

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

If granted a full amount (10000 USD) we plan to distribute the award in following way:

- 4000 USD towards prizes
- 3000 USD towards judges' honorariums
- 3000 USD towards rental costs

How will Roberts support be recognized?

We are grateful for a longtime support of Roberts Foundation. It is a highest honor to receive Excellence in the Arts grant. It helps us in sustaining highest level of our competition. In 2025, we will place Roberts Foundation as a "Diamond Sponsor" in our promotional materials. The logo of Roberts Foundation will be placed in all official materials as: booklets, posters, programs, competition website. Finally, Roberts Foundation will be mentioned at Winners Concert and Awards Ceremony.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

"I have the simplest tastes. I am always satisfied with the best." This motto of Oscar Wilde is the keystone of all our activities and our definition of artistic excellence. The Chopin International Piano Competition has risen to the level, at which is recognized worldwide as one of leading Chopinesque events. It annually brings most talented pianists from the world to Hartford. I would like to mention that just recently alumni of our competition took an active participation at The XVIII International Chopin Competition in Warsaw- the oldest and most famous piano competition in the world. Six of our winners took part in the competition. Two of them excelled in the competition and gained an acclaim of critics and audience: JJ Bun Bui, Canada became a prize winner of the competition in Warsaw (He was the youngest participant selected out of the group of 500 people). Avery Gagliano, USA- Grand prize winner of Chopin Competition in Hartford, 2012 became a semifinalist (Top 20).

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

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Our prize winners achieve great music careers, to mention a few:

Umi Garrett, USA – Grand Prize winner 2011, Avery Gagliano, USA- Grand prize winner - Winner of National Chopin Competition in Miami, Semi-finalist of XVIII Chopin International Competition in Warsaw, Poland, Harmony Zhu, Canada- Grand Prix winner, 2015 World International Junior Chess Champion. JJ. Bun Bui, Canada- II prize winner, 2016 – Prize winner of most important competition International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, 2021. Sophia Liu, Canada (8 years old), 2018, Student of famous pianist Dang Thai Son, performances in Poland, China, Canada, USA at important venues Furthermore, excellence can be only achieved by inviting world-class experts as adjudicators: Veda Kaplinsky- Chair of Piano Department of Juilliard School, Jong Hwa Park- Professor of National University in Seoul, Armen Babakhanian - winner of Van Cliburn and Leeds International Competitions. Olga Kern, winner of Van Cliburn Piano Competition,

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

- We invite excellent international pianists to Hartford. In the course of years, we brought world authorities from USA, Poland, Italy, Greece, Hungary, Brazil, Austria, France, Spain, Mexico, Japan, China, Indonesia, Hong Kong ,Malaysia, South Korea, Armenia, Israel and Taiwan, etc. It is a rare opportunity for audience to interact with esteemed artists and listen to their performances. We brought pianists representing 44 countries and 5 continents.
- We believe that bringing experts and pianists has a strong impact on education of local pianists and students who strongly contribute from contacting their international counterparts. Such artistic connections develop into lifetime collaborations.
- Interest of local audience and musicians. Each year we distribute many free invitations for local students and teachers. We have an increased number of local pianists and musicians interested in attending our Winners Concert.

How will this project be evaluated?

The Chopin International Piano Competition will be judged by international experts:

- Dr. Krystian Tkaczewski, Poland-internationally awarded concert pianist
- Prof. Michael Bulychev-Okser, USA- Artistic Director of Gershwin International Music Competition in New York
- Prof. Marcella Crudeli, Italy - Artistic Director, Roma International Piano Competition
- Prof. Vladimir Soultanov, France- Artistic Director of Heuts-de-France International Piano Competition • Prof. Andrea Turini, Italy- Professor of Conservatory in Pesaro
- Prof. Yang Xiting, China-Deputy President Huaqiao University in Xiamen, China.

The project will be evaluated as successful with the following criteria: high level of expertise of the competitors, high class of invited adjudicators, number of submissions, positive feedback of the audience and media.

Cover letter

- [Grant.pdf](#)

Board list

- [CCF-Board-Members.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [Connecticut-Chopin-Foundation-501c3-designation-letter.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [CT-Chopin-Fdtn-Form-990-2023.pdf](#)

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 409**Last year operational budget**

- [2024-CT-Chopin-Budget-1.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [2025-Operational-Budget-1.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [2024-Q3-CT-Chopin-Balance-Sheet.pdf](#)

Project budget

- [Connecticut-Chopin-Foundation-Project-Budget-2025.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

No

Grant Report

- [Connecticut-Chopin-Foundation-Inc.-Grantee-Reporting-Form.pdf](#)

Other materials?

- [BookletHartford2024b-compressed-1.pdf](#)
- [2023-Q4-CT-Chopin-Financial-Statement.pdf](#)

Our previous competitions and concerts have been well attended, received the highest reviews from the audience, and the acclaim in the press. The previous editions attracted pianists from 44 countries and five continents, representing following countries: USA, Grenada, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Ecuador, Poland, Guatemala, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, France, Kosovo, Italy, Moldova, Norway, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Indonesia, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, New Zealand, Australia.

We had pianists representing the most prestigious conservatories and music schools around the world as: Juilliard School, Curtis Institute, Manhattan School, Eastman School, Cleveland Institute of Music, Shanghai Conservatory, Central School of Music in Beijing, Moscow State Conservatory, Conservatoire Superior in Paris, France.

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