

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 497**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?

New Britain

Will this activity occur after November 1, 2025?

Yes

Are you a recent grantee?

Yes

Enter your Report Code

134920-Roberts2022

Organization Name

Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, Inc.

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

760822196

Principal Contact Name

Adrian Sylveen

Title

Artistic / Executive Director

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[Map It](#)

Website<http://thevirtuosi.org/>

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 497**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 enrich communities through meaningful and transformative cultural experiences by presenting high-quality performances, promoting cross-cultural exchange, and fostering music education. Through diverse and special programming that includes both classical masterworks and contemporary premieres, and the Virtuosi is dedicated to showcasing exceptional talent from Hartford, New Britain, and around the world.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra (CV) is Connecticut's premier professional group, based in the Greater New Britain area, & dedicated to presenting both traditional & contemporary works to the public. As artists, we strive to be cultural leaders & teachers & to inspire our audiences to recognize the beauty & quality of classical music in any form.

CV presents approximately ten critically acclaimed concert & opera programs each season. Virtuosi also presents eight school concerts for the New Britain Dept. of Education. We perform 30 times in a season in New Britain, Hartford, New London, Middletown, New York, & Waterbury. CV also presented concerts in Mystic, Meriden, & New York City.

We find that performing in areas previously cut off from the arts or historically underserved allows for their re-invigoration. CV's series of free children's concerts & Virtuosi-affiliated educational programs continue to impact young people's lives. The goal is to leave them encouraged & inspired to pursue music in their lives. We often find that it is the student's only opportunity to see a live orchestra performance. These educational programs include the New Britain school concerts, Summer Music Institute & the Music Academy.

CV collaborates with CCSU, Teatro Lirico D'Europa, Middletown Concert Association, the Moniuszko Choir, & the Wadsworth Atheneum.

CV continually expands the repertoire by including modern music & lesser-known classical compositions. It premiered works written for us by several Connecticut-based composers.

In 2015 CVCO initiated the International Greve Opera Academy & Music Festival in Greve, Italy. The program attracts opera & instrumental students from all continents. All these efforts have proved highly beneficial to the organization's commitment to bringing the art of orchestral music to audiences throughout the state & providing opportunities to exceptionally talented musicians.

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

We present concerts with groups from New Britain and Hartford, including partnerships with NBMAA and CCSU. We also perform at New Britain Public Schools, serving low-income, at-risk Title-1 students. Our audience is approx. 85% White/Eastern European (many Polish immigrants), 5% Black, 5% Hispanic/Latino, and 5% Asian/Other. School audiences reflect New Britain's diverse community.

Describe your organization's governance.

We are governed by a board of 15 members. The Board meets approximately every 3 to 6 months with good attendance. Since the onset of COVID, meetings have generally been by Zoom. We have accepted new board members in 2025: Margaret Malinowski (from the NB City Hall, and Ed Napier (a successful TV series writer)

Please describe the diversity of your board by gender and ethnicity/race. Use percentages.

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The Virtuosi's 15-member Board reflects the cultural and geographic diversity of our communities, with 40% women and 60% men, 65% of Eastern European descent. Rooted in the Polish American Foundation, we are actively seeking members from underrepresented groups. Our School Advisory Committee and Virtuosi Academy planning team also include minority members, reinforcing our commitment to inclusive leadership throughout the organization.

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

Board members are vital to the Connecticut Virtuosi, offering financial support and community engagement that strengthen our impact. Prof. Biskupski of CCSU is a long-time advocate, and our CCSU performances reflect this key partnership. Zbig Matulaniec, CEO of TOMZ Corp., provides generous annual support. Each board member contributes through donations, connections, or guidance, united by a shared commitment to the Virtuosi's mission and long-term success.

Project Name

2025-2026 Season of Concerts and Operas in Hartford and New Britain

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

No

Project Description

We are requesting \$12,000 to support our 2025-2026 season in New Britain and Hartford. This season will include concerts and educational programs presented as part of our ongoing "We the People: Immigrant Stories" series, along with two fully staged operas in collaboration with the Teatro Lirico D'Europa. Our programming continues to reflect our commitment to cultural inclusivity, educational engagement, and artistic excellence. The season opens with a performance by Weiran Meng, an exceptional young Chinese pianist and 2024 Juilliard Concerto Competition finalist, who will perform Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. The program also includes the world premiere of XXI Music for String Orchestras by Polish composer, Sandra Tracz. Other season highlights include the premiere of A Nocturn by Ernesto Ferreri, and a new opera, Into the Sun, by Ed Michael Napier and Adrian Sylveen, exploring justice and identity in American schools.

Total estimated project budget

\$11,865.00

Project start/opening

10/01/2025

Project end/closing

06/30/2026

Project venue

First Presbyterian Church, NB Museum of American Art, New Britain Public School, and CCSU

Project town

Hartford and New Britain

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

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Admission to events at the performances ranges from \$0-\$35, while opera tickets range from \$20 to \$65, depending on the production and venue. Public concerts at the Museum in New Britain are offered free of charge, other events are with a suggested donation of \$15 to \$35, ensuring accessibility for all audience members.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

We work with a PR firm to secure media coverage and interviews. Events are promoted via Facebook, YouTube, and targeted emails through Constant Contact. Partners like NBMAA, First Presbyterian Church, and CCSU feature our concerts in their materials. We also collaborate with schools and community groups. This multifaceted strategy expands our reach to a broad, diverse audience across central Connecticut.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

The requested funds will directly support our core programming, covering essential such as salaries for core musicians, fees for soloists and composers, and related artistic costs, such as purchasing scores. The Connecticut Virtuosi maintains a healthy and lean financial structure, allocating only approximately 7% of its budget to administrative expenses, ensuring that the majority of resources are dedicated to artistic excellence and community engagement.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

We prominently feature the Roberts Foundation's name and logo on our website, in all concert programs, and on video livestreams. Many of our concerts are streamed live or made available as recorded videos on our YouTube channel, where major sponsors are acknowledged in each broadcast.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

We believe that artistic excellence is a reflection of our shared humanity; an expression of both personal identity and collective experience. Art, in all its forms, is born from human desire to seek truth, beauty, and meaning. We define artistic excellence as the demonstration of exceptional skill, insight and emotional depth in the creation or interpretation of impactful artistic work. Our commitment to this standard is evident in every aspect of our programming. Each season, we present over 30 high quality performances, including chamber and symphonic concerts, fully staged operas, choral works, and educational initiatives. Artistic excellence informs our international collaborations, which bring together outstanding artists from around the world with talented local musicians. These partnerships enrich our artistic offerings and contribute to a vibrant cultural exchange that benefits audiences across New Britain and Hartford.

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

Our definition of artistic excellence is central to everything we do. The Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra is one of the most dynamic and versatile musical organizations in the state. Each season features a wide range of programming, including chamber and symphonic concerts, fully staged operas, choral works, and educational initiatives. The quality of our artistry is reflected in our publicly available audio and video recordings, accessible through our website, YouTube channel, and Facebook page. These performances not only showcase our musicianship but also serve as the foundation for our educational programming in New Britain Schools. Our series embodies our commitment to artistic excellence through cultural storytelling by highlighting the immigrant experience and celebrating contributions from diverse communities around the world. These performances offer audiences both artistic beauty and meaning human connection and harmony.

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

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The community benefits deeply from accessible, affordable opportunities to experience world class musical performances and to engage with the artistic expressions of diverse cultures. A vibrant arts sector strengthens not only the cultural identity of a region but also contributes to the overall health, well-being, and economy of the community. Our concert series actively enriches the cultural landscape of both Hartford and New Britain, adding vitality and continuity to the arts calendar in both cities. Through our “We the People: Immigrant Stories” series, we aim to foster greater cultural understanding and celebrate the richness of diversity within our community. We believe we provide a space where art becomes a catalyst for empathy, connection, and community harmony. These performances not only resonate with general audiences, but also serve as inspiration for young musicians in the area, many of whom see their own heritage and aspirations reflected on stage.

How will this project be evaluated?

- Successful presentation of all planned concerts and operas within the approved budget, maintaining both artistic and financial integrity.
- Expanded audience reach through consistent use of social media, press releases, and live streamed broadcasts in collaboration with our technical team.
- Effective promotion that attracts a growing and more diverse audience from New Britain neighborhoods and the Greater Hartford region.
- Audience engagement and feedback, both in person and through online platforms, including social media interactions and post performances responses.
- Maintaining a balanced budget and meeting all financial obligations to ensure continued organizational sustainability.

Cover letter

- [CV-Cover-Letter-Roberts-Foundation-2025.pdf](#)

Board list

- [CV-Board-as-of-Aug.-1-2025.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [CVO-IRS-501c3.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [Virtuosi-990-FY24.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [FY-25-CV-Operating-Budget-vAug-2024.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [CV-FY-26-Operating-Budget-ver-2025-08-01.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [Virtuosi-Accounts-at-Webster-Bank-as-of-Aug-1-2025.pdf](#)

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 497**Project budget**

- [CV-FY-26-NB-HTF-Budget-Roberts-Foundation-format.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?

- [CV-2025-2026-Season-draft-for-New-Britain-Hartford-.pdf](#)

Thank you!

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