

# ATTACHMENT B

## Cultural Arts Grants Application Form

Reference #	17698957
Status	Complete
Login Username	zen.edwards@icloud.com
Login Email	zen.edwards@icloud.com
Popular Name of Organization	Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar
Legal Name (if different)	Baroque Music Festival Corona del Mar
Federal Tax ID No.	95-3785942
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 838
City / Zipcode	Corona del Mar
Contact Name	Zen Edwards
Phone number	(949) 760-7887
Email address	<a href="mailto:zen.edwards@icloud.com">zen.edwards@icloud.com</a>
Website	<a href="https://bmf-cdm.org">https://bmf-cdm.org</a>
Geographical Area Served	Primarily Corona del Mar/Newport Beach, other Orange County cities, and greater Southern California
Have you received a City of Newport Beach Cultural Arts Grant before?	Yes
If so, what year did you receive a grant?	2025
Year organization was founded:	1980
Number of paid staff:	1 part-time
Number of active volunteers:	20
Total amount requested: (from request line of project budget):	4,500
Estimated number of people in Newport Beach that the proposed project(s) will serve:	600

**1. Briefly describe below your organization's purpose, mission, and goals.**

The mission of the Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar (BMF), is to present high-level professional concerts that promote the beauty and variety of Baroque music at affordable prices in intimate local venues, with educational aspects. The BMF has held a series of concerts in June for 46 years, at Sherman Gardens and in acoustically appropriate local churches. In 2025 the BMF received its highest ticket sales in the organization's history for its Vivaldi-themed Festival. Building on this momentum, BMF's goals for 2026 are to engage a larger number of musicians to expand repertoire choices, continue audience and supporter growth, and to deepen community engagement. The successful summer concert series model established by Prof. Burton Karson in 1981, and carried on by the Festival's 2nd artistic director, Elizabeth Blumenstock, since 2011, will continue to sustain and develop community connections through Baroque music. The Burton Karson Music Education Fund and Program, established June 2024 to primarily fund on-campus workshops and other interactive activities held while schools are in session, had its first free event in October 2025 on the campus of St. Michael and All Angels, Corona del Mar, opening the eyes and ears of community members ages 2 to 82 to Baroque chamber music, its relevance, and its socio-historic context; and raising awareness of the BMF's mainstage concerts. The 2026 Festival, June 21-28, offers a musical tour around Europe in honor of music's patron saint, St. Cecilia. The main concert for this application is the Finale on June 28, featuring the Festival Orchestra, vocal soloists, and 8-voiced chorus concluding this year's series titled "Bright Cecilia: The Power of Harmony." The program includes Handel's large-

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**2. Identify and describe why there is a need in the Newport Beach Community for your proposed project/program. Include a quantitative description of the need and on what you based your findings (i.e. “Based on a study done by the PTA, there are one hundred children in the 4th-6th grades at Newport Elementary who have had no training with musical instruments.” ) Describe how you have determined that your organization is the best organization for the proposed project/program.**

scale “Ode for St. Cecilia’s...

... Day.” We will promote Students Go for Baroque! Rush Tickets for \$10 to local students for all concerts, with general admission prices averaging an increased \$55 each, up \$5 due to rising costs.

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The BMF is still the only professional exclusively classical music presenter headquartered in Newport Beach/Corona del Mar, and our work continues to build on our longstanding track record of serving the local community. With concerts held in Corona del Mar and Newport Beach, the BMF is committed to providing performances and now education events that are artistically outstanding, enjoyable, and fully accessible to a local audience of all ages. We include consideration of physical access, geographics, enrichment, education, and cost, as well as “lean” operating expenses, while holding ourselves, musicians, and seasonal staff to high public standards. Concert attendees are provided with surveys and at the 2025 Festival the 110 returned were highly supportive with 97% votes of “Excellent” on performances; 87% “Excellent” on overall experience (96 responses, 5 “good” 9 left blank); and “Yes” to recommending to a friend from 97% of respondees. 41% of responses were from newcomers, 28% from those attending 2-5 years, and 31% from long timers. The BMF remains a consistently popular event, this past year with 3 sold-out concerts and 2 were close to capacity. Our audiences are mainly residents from the immediate Newport Beach area and nearby communities. Ticket sales in 2025 were much higher than recent years, and nearly 12% over target, due to Vivaldi’s popularity. We had a record 44% first

time buyers compared to 41% in 2024 and 33% in 2023. This boost underscores the importance of our outreach efforts each year as well as savvy programming, as even long-time residents continue to discover the BMF. Sustaining and developing outreach work continues as a priority. Our 2026 Gala is in early March, again this year, rather than Jan/Feb as in the past, as we continue to optimize...

... engagement from newcomers and regulars.

**3. Describe the specific project/program that will be funded by a cultural grant. Include how the proposed project/program will be implemented and outline a schedule or project timeline, with planned dates and locations. Identify individuals and groups involved, particularly artists and performers, and describe their roles and responsibilities. Describe the background and qualifications of your organization and key personnel to be involved in the program. Remember: the City funds only projects and programs- not operating expenses. These projects and programs must promote community involvement and awareness of the arts in Newport Beach.**

The Finale will present music by the German-English composer of "Messiah," George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)—one of Baroque music's "juggernauts" alongside Bach and Vivaldi. Internationally recognised and active soprano and tenor soloists based outside California join the Festival Orchestra in its largest formation since pre-COVID times, and an 8-piece choir of local-area-based singers, all led by Blumenstock from the violin. Both soloists make their Festival debuts: the Philadelphia-based soprano Hannah De Priest is described as a "standout" and praised for her "bright, ideally-focused sound, allied to a probing expressive intelligence" (Chicago Classical Review). The "luminous" (Boston Globe) young soprano enjoys a fast-rising career in North America and Europe. Much sought-after lyric tenor Nicholas Phan enjoys a well-established international career. He won the 2025 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording for his recording of Kaija Saariaho's "Adriana Mater" with Esa-Pekka Salonen and the San Francisco Symphony. His album, "A Change Is Gonna Come," was nominated for the 2025 Grammy Award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album. With a previous album in 2020, he was the first singer of Asian descent to be nominated

in the history of the Best Classical Solo Vocal Album category, awarded by the Recording Academy since 1959. The proposed NBAC grant would support fees and travel for these two soloists (total combined cost ~\$4,000) and contribute to fees and local travel for the eight LA-based singers. Funds will also subsidize student rush tickets for all concerts and help cover costs to promote educational aspects: rush tickets, open dress rehearsals, and, new this year, a Baroque “101” symposium for local music educators, students, Festival subscribers and current donors...

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... on Saturday, June 20, after an invitation to attend our opening concert dress rehearsal. Rush tickets will again be available to NMUSD students' family members as well as the students they are accompanying. Grant monies will help fund invitations for middle school, high school, and college students from Newport Beach and nearby to attend dress rehearsals on June 20 and 27. These behind-the-scenes opportunities offer a unique glimpse into the detailed rehearsal process from the musicians' perspective. Students ask questions, explore the instruments, and understand how the composers themselves heard this music, before attending the formal concert the next day if their schedule allows. The new initiative of the Baroque "101" Symposium on Saturday, June 20, following the dress rehearsal, will be jointly funded by the Burton Karson Music Education Fund, the 2026 Festival budget, and potentially a portion of this grant. Costs involved include venue rental, modest refreshments, and our Education Program Director Dr. Lindsey Strand-Polyak's time preparing and giving the presentation; plus, BMF staff time to promote the event, which will be

marketed to music educators via our decades-long association with Cal State Fullerton music department’s Fraternity (Sinfonia alumni), and via NMUSD and other local education partners. Invitations will also be extended to 2026 Festival subscribers and donors, in line with our goal to deepen supporter experiences and investment. Many only attend these Baroque concerts in a once-a-year cycle, and despite Blumenstock’s comprehensive and entertaining program notes and spoken concert remarks, have questions about Baroque “basics” as witnessed at our most recent Fall Preview in October 2025. In context, the complete 2026 schedule includes: June 20 & ...

...27 open dress rehearsals (students, educators, key supporters), June 20 Baroque "101" Symposium; June 21 "Parisian Pleasures" at St. Mark Presbyterian, Newport Beach (Festival Orchestra dir. Blumenstock in a Vivaldi-influenced Leclair Violin Concerto and dramatic suites by Marais, Rebel and Rameau); June 22 "A Cöthen Chamber: Bach Sonatas" at St. Michael & All Angels, Corona del Mar (Blumenstock & harpsichordist and organist Matthew Dirst); June 24 "Concerti d'Italia" at Sherman Library & Gardens (recorder and string concertos by Vivaldi, Durante and others); June 26 "A Spanish Salón: Chamber Music Night" at St. Mark Newport Beach: Boccherini's La Ritirata di Madrid and "Fandango" quintets for guitar and strings and Spanish solo guitar music; and June 28 at St. Mark Presbyterian, "Festival Finale: St. Cecilia's Day!"

Is this a new or existing project/program?

New program

4. Define or describe the segment of the population in Newport Beach that you intend to

While Festival attendees generally skew to local- and nearby- area residents in the 56-65+ age

serve by your project/program. Include such things as age, location, numbers served, etc.

range, other groups are represented, including families and local students. Approximately 25% of our mailing list of ~2,500 resides in the 92625 or 92657-92663 zip codes. These local supporters represented 21% of Festival buyers in 2025 compared to 28% in 2024 and 27% in 2023. The popularity of Vivaldi and “The Four Seasons” brought more people into the City of Newport Beach for this year’s concerts, likely benefiting the cities’ restaurants and other amenities.

PROJECT BUDGET: Expenses - Personnel	
Artistic	
Funding from the City of Newport Beach	4,500
Funding from Other Sources	82,345
Administrative	
Funding from the City of Newport Beach	0
Funding from Other Sources	18,000
Technical Production	
Funding from the City of Newport Beach	0
Funding from Other Sources	3,150
PROJECT BUDGET: Expenses - Operating	
Facility Expense/Space Rental	
Funding from the City of Newport Beach	0
Funding from Other Sources	7,300
Marketing	
Funding from the City of Newport Beach	0
Funding from Other Sources	36,000
Production/Exhibition Expense	
Funding from the City of Newport Beach	0

Funding from Other Sources	0
Touring/Presentation Expense	
Funding from the City of Newport Beach	0
Funding from Other Sources	1,500
Education Materials	
Funding from the City of Newport Beach	0
Funding from Other Sources	7,000
Transportation	
Funding from the City of Newport Beach	0
Funding from Other Sources	10,500
Equipment	
Funding from the City of Newport Beach	0
Funding from Other Sources	1,500
Other (if greater than 10% annotate below)	
Funding from the City of Newport Beach	0
Funding from Other Sources	0
GRAND TOTAL:	171,795

6. Describe the expected quantifiable outcomes of your project/program and how you will evaluate the results. Be very specific in addressing the ways that you will determine that your project/program met the needs that you identified and accomplishes the goals you set out to achieve (i.e. you provide 50 hours of musical instruction and instruments to the 100 children at Newport Elementary school as measured by music store rental receipts and logs of instructors.)	The Festival will host five concerts June 21-28 at Sherman Library & Gardens and in local churches. Before each concert, our outdoor brass quintet will play to welcome guests and enhance the concert-going experience, along with pre-concert concessions at Sherman Gardens. In total, Festival musicians will perform over 10 hours of music. We will verify this by auditing concert start and end times, factoring in intermissions. Over the eight days, the Festival will employ 38 musicians, including Baroque specialist vocalists, orchestral players, and other professionals. Payroll records will document musician employment numbers. The program will
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consist primarily of Baroque-era music chosen by Elizabeth Blumenstock. A Cultural Arts Grant will significantly help with high Finale soloist expenses, support our first Baroque symposium on June 20, and assist in the rollout of 2026 Festival student opportunities. Ticket sales only covered 25% of direct Festival costs again in 2025 due to rising costs, including musicians' fees (American Federation of Musicians Collective Bargaining Agreement), venue rentals, musicians' airfares, and catering (for patrons and musicians). As always, our objective is to provide the local community and people from the surrounding area with a series of high-quality Baroque performances with educational components. We will assess audience approval ratings using survey forms which Festival leadership will ask the audience to complete at each concert. In addition to evaluating guests' satisfaction, the surveys help us determine ways to improve the overall Festival experience in future.

List of Board Members and their affiliations	<i>Document found on page 12.</i>
Recent list of individuals, corporations, and foundations that provide organizational support	<i>Document found on page 13.</i>
IRS Determination Letter (if you are a 501(c)(3)) indicating tax exempt status	<i>Document found on pages 14–15.</i>
One brochure and/or one press clipping.	<i>Document found on pages 16–17.</i>
I. Income (cash only)	
Contributed	
FY 2024/25 Budget (current)	107,069
FY 2025/26 Budget (projected)	123,000
Earned	

FY 2024/25 Budget (current)	81,226
FY 2025/26 Budget (projected)	85,063
<b>Total Income</b>	
FY 2024/25 Budget (current)	188,295
FY 2025/26 Budget (projected)	208,063
<b>II. Expenses</b>	
<b>Program</b>	
FY 2024/25 Budget (current)	91,270
FY 2025/26 Budget (projected)	113,195
<b>General and Administrative</b>	
FY 2024/25 Budget (current)	23,429
FY 2025/26 Budget (projected)	24,035
<b>Marketing and Development</b>	
FY 2024/25 Budget (current)	66,578
FY 2025/26 Budget (projected)	70,750
<b>Total Expenses</b>	
FY 2024/25 Budget (current)	181,277
FY 2025/26 Budget (projected)	207,980
<b>Item #49</b>	
<b>III. Operating Surplus/Deficit (Income minus Expenses)</b>	
FY 2024/25 Budget (current)	7,018
FY 2025/26 Budget (projected)	83
<b>IV. Fund Balance at Beginning of Year</b>	
FY 2024/25 Budget (current)	136,826
FY 2025/26 Budget (projected)	143,844
<b>V. Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) (Add lines III and IV)</b>	
FY 2024/25 Budget (current)	143,844

FY 2025/26 Budget (projected)	143,927
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Item #50

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VI. In-Kind Contributions (attach schedules if greater than 10% of total income)

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FY 2024/25 Budget (current)	0
FY 2025/26 Budget (projected)	0

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I verify the knowledge that the information submitted in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



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Name	Zen Edwards
Title	Executive Director
Last Update	2026-01-10 18:48:36
Start Time	2026-01-10 18:38:09
Finish Time	2026-01-10 18:48:36

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**Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar**  
**P.O. Box 838**  
**Corona del Mar, CA 92625-0838**  
**(949) 760-7887**

**Executive Committee**

Wayne Norman, President · Steven Dember, Treasurer · Vina Spiehler, Secretary

**2025-2026 Board of Directors**

**Philip Benguhe**

Project Manager, Sunworks USA-retired

**Dorothy Boesch, RN**

Head Nurse, Long Beach Community Hospital - retired  
Past President, Friends of the Huntington Beach Library

**Patricia Bril, Immediate Past President**

Librarian Emerita, California State University, Fullerton - retired

**Virginia Cassara**

Realtor, Coldwell Banker – retired

**Steven Dember, Treasurer**

Senior Member, Technical Staff, The Boeing Company - retired

**Carol Moss Kirkwood**

County Librarian, Los Angeles County - retired

**Wayne Norman, President**

Principal Engineer, The Boeing Company - retired

**Janet Rappaport, Esq.**

Attorney, International Business, Tax;  
Adjunct Professor, Chapman University, Fowler School of Law

**Dr. Vina Spiehler, Secretary**

Forensic Toxicologist, Spiehler & Associates

**Lynne Hayward Worley**

Caribbean/Trans-Atlantic Flight Attendant, Delta Airlines - retired

Updated January 6, 2026, by Zen Edwards



## **2025 Festival Donors, Grants, and Business Contributors 2024-2025**

### **Major Individual Contributors**

\$10,000 or more: Dr. Vina R. Spiehler

\$5,000 to \$9,999:

Margaret M. Gates · Thomas A. & Bonnie J. Pridonoff · Steve & Paula Mae Schwartz

\$3,000 to \$4,999: Rochelle Bowe & Michael Ishikawa · Steven & Cynthia Dember

\$1,000 to \$2,999: fifteen donors in this category

Up to \$999: seventy-six donors in this category

### **Foundation and Government Grants**

The Colburn Foundation \$12,500 (operating grant)

Newport Beach Arts Commission Cultural Arts Grant \$4,000

### **Business Contributions - Employee Matching Programs**

Boeing \$5,340

Pimco \$243

OGDEN UT 84201-0029

In reply refer to: 4077550277  
Feb. 02, 2016 LTR 4168C 0  
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BAROQUE MUSIC FESTIVAL CORONA DEL  
MAR  
% BURTON KARSON  
PO BOX 838  
CORONA DL MAR CA 92625-0838



007248

Employer ID Number: 95-3785942  
Form 990 required: Yes

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your request dated Jan. 11, 2016, regarding your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in December 1982, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3).

Our records also indicate you're not a private foundation as defined under IRC Section 509(a) because you're described in IRC Section 509(a)(2).

Donors can deduct contributions they make to you as provided in IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading of this letter, we indicated whether you must file an annual information return. If a return is required, you must file Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, or 990-PF by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. IRC Section 6033(j) provides that, if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked on the filing due date of the third required return or notice.

For tax forms, instructions, and publications, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 1-877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific Time).

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Feb. 02, 2016 LTR 4168C 0  
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BAROQUE MUSIC FESTIVAL CORONA DEL  
MAR  
% BURTON KARSON  
PO BOX 838  
CORONA DL MAR CA 92625-0838

Sincerely yours,



Jeffrey I. Cooper  
Director, EO Rulings & Agreement



Return Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is this a new address? ☐ Yes ☐ No



BAROQUE MUSIC FESTIVAL, CORONA DEL MAR  
Post Office Box 838  
Corona del Mar, CA 92625-0838

Please  
Place Stamp  
Here

### La Serenissima: Vivaldi for All Seasons

Experience a memorable musical journey this summer to *La Serenissima* — the Baroque Venice of Antonio Vivaldi! Inimitable artistic director and violinist **Elizabeth Blumenstock**, together with the Festival's orchestra, chorus and soloists, bring you vibrant interpretations of *The Four Seasons*; Vivaldi's choral delight, *Gloria*; his only late concerto; and fascinating and enjoyable works by more 18th-century masters.



Blumenstock

As we come together for the annual June season that began in 1981 under Festival founder Burton Karson, we welcome you, or welcome you back, for five concerts of richly varied Baroque music over eight days performed in intimate venues in Corona del Mar and Newport Beach.

#### Concert Venues

- St. Mark Presbyterian Church  
2200 San Joaquin Hills Road, Newport Beach
- Sherman Library & Gardens  
2647 East Coast Highway, Corona del Mar
- St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church  
3233 Pacific View Drive, Corona del Mar

#### Festival Support

Tax-deductible donations and concert sponsorships are welcomed, as ticket revenue covers only 25% of Festival expenses. We appreciate gifts of any amount and acknowledge donors of \$50 or more in the printed Festival program. Visit [bnf-cdm.org/support-us](http://bnf-cdm.org/support-us) for details.



### How to Purchase Tickets

- Scan the QR code to the right or visit [bnf-cdm.org/tickets](http://bnf-cdm.org/tickets)
- Or return the order form enclosed
- Or email [tickets@bnf-cdm.org](mailto:tickets@bnf-cdm.org)
- Or phone (949) 760-7887



The five-concert Festival Subscription price of \$325 assures premium priority-area seating at all events and includes a private post-concert dinner following the Festival Finale on Sunday, June 29, in the Fellowship Hall, St. Mark Presbyterian Church. Individual tickets are sold on a concert-by-concert basis for open seating.

#### To gain the full Festival experience, please note:

- Subscribers are mailed a seating card with their tickets to reserve a seat on arrival in the premium seating section at each venue. Outside this section, open seating is available for individual ticket-holders.
- Doors open 30 minutes before concert start time at the churches (June 22, 23, 29) and 45 minutes before at Sherman Library & Gardens (June 25, 27), with access to the Gardens included in the ticket price.
- \$10 student rush tickets for students aged 12-29 are available at the door subject to space availability. A valid student card and photo ID are required.
- Come early to our concert venues to mingle with other guests and hear our Festival regulars, the South Coast Brass quintet, play *al fresco*.
- Complimentary wine & waters receptions are included for all ticket-holders.
- Free parking is available at all venues. At Sherman Library & Gardens there is step-free access from the lower side gate on Dahlia Avenue.
- What should I wear? Guests typically wear smart casual or business attire. Layers are recommended. You may also wish to bring a seat cushion to all venues.

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PERMIT NO. 1367

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar  
P.O. Box 838, Corona del Mar, CA 92625-0838



Reserve your subscription now and join us June 22-29  
for "La Serenissima: Vivaldi for All Seasons"  
*Antonio Vivaldi*



Elizabeth Blumenstock  
Artistic Director



Festival Subscription  
Includes Premium  
Seating & State  
Dinner

45th Annual Season  
**La Serenissima:  
Vivaldi for All Seasons**  
June 22-29, 2025



