



City of Columbus, Wisconsin  
Tourism – Room Tax Fund Reimbursement Grant Application

**Applicant Name:** Katie Nichols

**Organization Name:** Columbus Chamber Choir

**Applying for:** Total of \$2,008.66 in Event Funding to help offset cost of producing and marketing concerts. The Columbus Chamber Choir are planning to spend up to \$6,026.00 for the production.

**Use of Funds:** The Columbus Chamber Choir is a mid-sized choral ensemble dedicated to the celebration of varied cultural, sacred, religious, spiritual and community musical traditions through the presentation of works from a variety of genres that are composed by music-makers associated with a host of unique and popular styles. We have been performing together since the spring of 2023, and each year we present Columbus with one winter and one spring concert at a local venue. We are a volunteer directed and managed choir, comprised of a dedicated group of volunteer singers. Our concerts have remained free to the public since we began performing, in the spirit of generosity and community. Our main funding sources include donations and sponsorships from local businesses.

Our concerts garner 150 - 200 audience members, drawing local and out of town guests to watch us perform. We invite special guest musicians to enhance the concert-goer experience and broaden our reach. These area acts have included the Portage-based Candlelight Ladies, the Madison Brass Quintet, and Vox string quartet. Their contributions bring unique cultural experiences to Columbus and attract concert goers from out of town to our city.

If awarded, room tax funds would help us fund and promote our local concerts. In order to gauge the impact of these events, we will develop a short concert goer survey to gather information on out-of-town visits generated and the economic impact for businesses that provide services other than lodging. Our expenses for these events include:

Estimated costs: \$6,026 TOTAL

- \$590 for Music
- \$1,400 for Pianist
- \$590 for Uniforms
- \$500 for Guest Musicians
- \$1,000 for Venue
- \$1,000 for Promotion / Marketing
- \$600 for Refreshments
- \$21 for Program Printing
- \$325 for Sound / Lighting



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Our concerts not only draw visitors from out of town, but they also provide opportunities for people in our community to take in a unique cultural experience, right here in Columbus. Through sponsorship of our concerts, local businesses can take advantage of much needed promotional opportunities by getting their business name and/or services out to potential customers.

Through serving as a venue, various community sites and businesses also enjoy promotion. For example, our 2025 winter concert took place at the Fireman’s Park Pavilion. It was very well attended and gave our community a reason to enjoy this historic community asset. Our upcoming spring concert will take place at the newly revamped Columbus High School, providing an opportunity for the public to inhabit a new community asset. Columbus Chamber Choir also performs outside of Columbus, promoting our community as a place where the arts are valued and thriving. We were recently honored as guests of the Candlelight Ladies in Portage and of Oakwood Village in Madison.

Room tax funding will help the Columbus Chamber Choir continue to grow in reach. Additional funds for concert development and promotion will allow us to advertise more broadly, pulling in more out of town visitors to see what Columbus has to offer, and more local community members to feel engagement and pride in their hometown.

**Supporting Materials:**

- None