

Conductors Retreat at Medomak 2020 Launching Music Organizations From the Ground Up

CHOROSYNTHESIS

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A symphony of voices embedded with social consciousness

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Vision

Chorosynthesis envisions a world where the choral art and its communities are thriving and pre-eminent.

Mission

Chorosynthesis seeks to re-conceptualize and broaden the scope of American choral music by fostering innovation, sustainability, collaboration, and excellence in and among the choral arts and its communities through both a bottom-up and top-down approach.

CHOROSYNTHESIS SINGERS, a professional, project-based 12-voice choir, exists to involve world-class performers and composers in the creation and performance of music that connects the art with community, specifically through the lens of social consciousness. The ensemble performs in world-class venues, partners with other organizations as artists-in-residence and concert series guests, and annually provides new music reading sessions. Recently, the group started an [online database of socially conscious choral music](#) and internationally released through Centaur Records, Inc. "[Empowering Silenced Voices](#)," an album of new, socially conscious choral music. They were awarded 2nd place for The American Prize 2018 in the Ensemble (Professional Choruses) Division with a special citation for Extraordinary Commitment to New Music.

Current Project : [Votes for Women Choral Consortium](#) - World Premiere December 2020



Overall Advice

- Have a clear reason for launching a new music organization. What need does your organization fill?
- Define your mission and vision. Your activities may change but the essence of these should guide your organization.
- Practice your elevator speech but be real in connecting with people. Who are you? What do you value? What makes you distinctive?
- Don't be afraid to ask for help. Seek advice from those you trust.
- Surround yourself with supportive colleagues.
- Be persistent and patient. Enjoy the ride!

Form a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit in Eight Steps

1. Choose a name.
2. File articles of incorporation.
3. Apply for your IRS tax exemption.
4. Apply for a state tax exemption.
5. Draft bylaws.
6. Appoint directors.
7. Hold a meeting of the board.
8. Obtain licenses and permits.

Resources

Bray, J. D. (2010). *Effective fundraising for nonprofits*. Berkeley, CA: Nolo.

Mancuso, A. (2009). *How to form a nonprofit corporation*. Berkeley, CA: Nolo.

Pakroo, P. H. (2009). *Starting and building a nonprofit: A practical guide*. Berkeley, CA: Nolo.

Wolf, T. W. (1999). *Managing a nonprofit organization in the twenty-first century*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Free online course on Coursera: *The Cycle: Management of Successful Arts and Cultural Arts Organizations*

Organizations

Chorus America

Fractured Atlas

League of American Orchestras

National Arts Strategies

Wolf Brown

Nonprofit Formation Documents

Articles of Incorporation: Your Primary Corporate Document

Contain basic structural information:

- Name of the nonprofit corporation
- Its registered agent
- Registered office address
- Corporation's membership structure, if any.
- Tax-exempt purpose
- Clause dedicating their assets to another 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or class of organizations should the nonprofit end

Bylaws: Your Operating Manual

Contain rules and procedures for:

- Holding meetings
- Selecting directors
- Appointing officers
- Other essential corporate formalities

Organizational Minutes

Formal record of the proceedings and actions taken:

- Setting an accounting period and tax year
- For a membership nonprofit, approving the issuance of memberships, membership certificates, and, if applicable, setting and scheduling membership dues or assessments
- Authorizing and establishing the board and other committees
- Appointing officer
- Approving the bylaws
- Authorizing the nonprofit to apply for tax-exempt status or, if that's already been taken care of, stating the effective date and terms of the organization's tax exemptions, and
- Approving other beginning transactions of the corporation, such as the opening of a corporate bank account.

Organize Your Corporate Records

- Articles of incorporation
- Bylaws
- Minutes of your organizational meeting (or first directors meeting)
- List of the names and addresses of your directors
- For a membership organization, a membership roster listing the names and addresses of your current members
- Minutes of all annual and special meetings of directors and members (if any), and
- Written consents to any actions taken by the board or members.