

## In This Issue

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## TCC Awarded State Covid Relief

When Covid shut down life as we knew it three years ago, people wondered what would become of all the mundane things like dining out, going to the movies and going to concerts.

And what about the businesses? How would they survive? Well, the government did come through with covid relief for them. Restaurants could make accommodations to welcome customers again, but theatres and concert venues were slower to bounce back. Non-profits took a hit. Bills still arrived, but there was little to no income.

So, the Massachusetts Legislature and the Mass Cultural Council worked together to provide \$51 million dollars to thousands of the Commonwealth's cultural organizations and individuals.

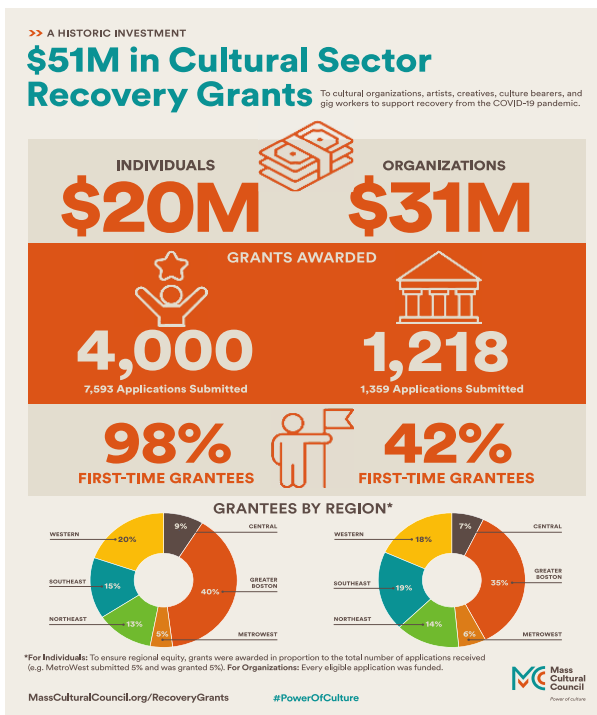
The grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$75,000. The Taunton Civic Chorus was awarded \$7,250. Music Director Chris Hoskins said TCC was fortunate to receive such a generous grant.

"As the Chair of the Rehoboth Cultural Council, I see firsthand the important work the Mass Cultural Council does, and how it contributes to the lives of folks all over the Commonwealth," said Hoskins. "We (TCC) will put the grant to good use: I see a new sound system in our future!"

Hoskins said the chorus is already having an incredible season preparing for the Spring concert – "Just another sign that we are coming out of the pandemic bigger, better, and stronger than ever."

State Representative Carol Doherty (D-Taunton/Easton), a supporter of the Arts, sang for many years with the Taunton Civic Chorus, calling it one of the most rewarding experiences in her life.

In a statement to *Chorus Line*, Doherty said, "Music touches the community in joyful ways and has touched my heart. The award to the TCC by the Mass Cultural Council is well deserved. TCC is the oldest, most longstanding chorus in Taunton and will continue on for a long time to come."



In a news release from the Mass Cultural Council, State Representative Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth) pointed to saving arts and cultural organizations: "Art and culture are not a luxury, but a lifeline that connects and inspires individuals of all backgrounds and identities. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, these grants will play a crucial role in both the economic recovery and the preservation of our talented culture and arts sector."

## Contact us:

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## TCC Welcomes New Faces

TCC's new members have something in common – they both love to sing, have been away from it for too long, and just had to join!

For Elaine LeBlanc of Berkley, it was serendipity, a chance encounter at a Christmas party, that steered her to the Taunton Civic Chorus. The "stranger" she spoke to was TCC member Joy Windle who told Elaine about chorus. It was just what Elaine had been praying for – a chorus close to home.

Elaine considers singing together "one of the most unifying acts of community that exists in our world."

"Musical harmony," she says, "is a metaphor of peace and love. Together we create something beautiful, each one singing his/her part alone but together. We hear each other, but we function as a whole. And I love it! That's the part I can't explain."

Besides music, Elaine loves so many things – anything nature, animals, plants, rocks, shells, birds, arts, crafts, gardening and hiking.

Sharon Hoskins has her hands full running her own flower farm, Brilliant Dahlia Flower Farm in Rehoboth, and raising three boys, one of whom happens to be TCC Music Director Chris.



Chris doesn't let Mom sing along at home when he plays the piano, so being a part of the chorus "allows me to sing away!"

Sharon believes music is magical. "I love hearing everyone sing together."

That love of music began at an early age when she inherited a clarinet. That led to playing in the concert band and playing the bass clarinet. She also sang in the school chorus and select chorus.

A native of Rhode Island, Sharon competed in events, medaling in voice and clarinet. But, she admits she hasn't sung or played in a very long time...until now.



**Music is the strongest form of magic.**

**---Marilyn Manson**

## A Dream Fulfilled; a New Website!

Taunton Civic Chorus has a new website! Thanks to the hard work of Board Member Heidi Fiore in researching and crafting the webpage, the site came to fruition in mid-February.

It was the dream of President Barbara Quill to have a website that would look professional and be accessed easily, rather than the old site which was accessed through a non-direct server. Heidi took on the challenge, and TCC's new page was born – [tauntoncivicchorus.org](http://tauntoncivicchorus.org).

