

Downtown Development Board Grant Application

Row 1

Applicant / Primary Contact:	Anita Samaroo
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Type of Grant Request	Special Event
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Name of Organization:	The Florida Orchestra, Inc
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Street Address:	244 2nd Avenue North
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City:	St. Petersburg
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State:	FL
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Zip:	33701
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Cell Phone:	
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Office Phone:	727-362-5423
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Email Address:	ASamaroo@floridaorchestra.org
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Website / Social Media Link(s):	Website: https://floridaorchestra.org/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/FloridaOrchestra/ , LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-florida-orchestra Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/thefloridaorchestra/?hl=en Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/c/thefloridaorchestra TikTok: https://www.tiktok.com/@thefloridaorchestra?lang=en
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Description of Project:	<p>The Florida Orchestra (TFO) is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) with offices based in Pinellas County. As Tampa Bay's premier performing arts institution — and the largest professional orchestra in Florida — TFO is led by internationally acclaimed Music Director Michael Francis and features 70 full-time musicians and conductors. Now celebrating its 58th season, TFO is widely recognized as one of the most vibrant and innovative orchestras in the nation. TFO has a continuous history of delivering high quality live orchestra music performances at Ruth Eckerd Hall and parks concerts such as at Coachman Park, that serve and positively impact our community. The free Symphony by the Sea concert at The Sound will be a shared experience and social activity linking people of all ages — adults, young adults and children — regardless of socio-economic status, including for those who would not otherwise afford or have access to such opportunities. At this concert, audiences will EXPERIENCE the magic and thrill of a live orchestra performance, in a safe environment where all are welcomed. This concert will also feature and invite nonprofit/community organization partners. We are in contact with several partners. The list includes: Clearwater Library, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, The Arc of Tampa Bay, Community Dental Clinic,</p>
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LiFT Academy, and a few local Clearwater schools to have students perform before the actual concert. The repertoire will offer something for everyone, ranging from epic classical masterpieces, symphonic favorites, and familiar, upbeat pops and film music. The program includes patriotic favorites such as the Star-Spangled Banner, Stars & Stripes Forever and Armed Forces Salute, famed film composer John Williams' music from Star Wars and Jaws, Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, film music from Skyfall and An Orchestral Suite from Aladdin, Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, and more. Resident Conductor Chelsea Gallo conducts. Gallo is a rising star in the world of conducting. She has been an Artistic Contributor for NASA, and recorded music for Lincoln Motor Company (™) Aviator commercials. Ms. Gallo has conducted across national and international stages. She completed graduate studies at Vienna Konservatorium and earned her Doctorate from the University of Michigan. The attendance from the previous Symphony by the Sea concert was 2146.

Total Project Cost (\$): \$114,659.94

Amount of Grant Funds Requested (\$): \$50,000.00

Applicant's Financial Contribution (\$):

Third-Party Contributions (\$):

When will the event take place? May 8, 2026

Who will implement the project?

Where will the project occur? The Baycare Sound

Project Attraction The extent to which individuals may access cultural resources and engage in cultural activities is part of what a city can offer to improve quality of life for its residents and to attract visitors. TFO free live orchestra concert at The Sound will help promote awareness and appreciation of Clearwater's diverse, world-class artistic and cultural offerings that contribute to a healthy, thriving arts-cultural-community ecosystem.. TFO free concert at The Sound will showcase the best of Clearwater, by attracting audiences first to downtown for convenient parking. There residents and visitors will have ample opportunities to discover downtown Clearwater's businesses where they can shop, dine, and make new discoveries. Residents and visitors attending the free TFO concert will be able to stroll to the beautiful waterfront park, experience its attractions, stay and play, and enjoy the thrill of Clearwater's newest outdoor venue featuring TFO's world-class performance.

**Applicant
Signature:**

Title of Event: The Florida Orchestra Concert at the Sound

**Date(s) of
Event:** Friday May 8, 2026

**Description of
Special Event:** A performance by the Florida Orchestra conducted by Chelsea Gallo,
Resident Conductor.

**Intended
Audience /
Anticipated
Attendance** Residents and visitors to the City of Clearwater and the greater
surrounding area. Anticipated Audience is 2,500.

**Total Event
Cost (\$):**

**Event Grant
Funds
Requested (\$)**

**Where will the
event be held?** The Sound, 255 Drew Street Clearwater, FL 33755

**Contacted
Special Events
Department?**

**Additional
Sponsors or
Media Outlets
for Event:**

**Funded by DDB
Before?** Yes

**Applicant
Signature** Anita Samaroo

Applied for:

Current BTR: No

Is 501(c)(3)? Yes

**Timeframe of
Event:** 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Free to Public? Yes

**Agreement
Checkbox**

**Applied /
Awarded** No

**Community
Sponsorship
Program?**
