

November 19, 2014

Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund Grant Program
Massachusetts Cultural Council
10 St. James Avenue, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116-3803

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Berkshire Children's Chorus, in order to support the application of Saint James Place to the Cultural Facilities Fund Grant Program.

The Berkshire Children's Chorus has been providing excellent training in choral music for the young people of Berkshire County and surrounding communities since 1990. The chorus consists of the following three groups: Junior Choir for grades 2-5, Senior Choir for grades 6-9 and Coda for grades 10-12. We currently have 36 students enrolled. The three choirs each rehearse for two hours per week and have two major concert appearances per season.

This past year we needed to leave the hall where we have rehearsed for the past nine years and in our search for a new home we learned about Saint James Place. The chorus needs a weekly rehearsal space with excellent acoustics, storage for our 146.25c/ft of music scores and office materials, and a performance space with excellent acoustics and piano. Saint James Place offers us the opportunity to meet all of these needs under one roof. Saint James Place has the added benefit of its central location in downtown Great Barrington. Making this space our home would benefit the chorus in many ways.

We have visited the Saint James Place facility many times and had productive discussions with the SJP team. We have discussed a rehearsal space rental fee of \$3,500 per year and a performance space rental fee of \$1,600 for two performances each year. The total, \$5,100 is within our budget. We are all in agreement about the appropriateness and feasibility of a partnership between the Berkshire Children's Chorus and Saint James Place.

The Chorus has trained a generation of singers and as we begin our twenty fifth season we are thrilled to consider Saint James Place as our permanent home.

Sincerely,



Ellen Maggio

President of the Board of Trustees,
Berkshire Children's Chorus