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Corporate Citizenship award winner: K&L Gates provides pro bono services to Chatham Baroque

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A long-term relationship between K&L Gates LLP, Pittsburgh's second-largest law firm, and Chatham Baroque Inc., which performs music from the 1700s, resulted in both a successful merger and additional much-needed funds to the nonprofit.

Recently, when the executive director of Renaissance & Baroque left mid-season, Chatham Baroque took over its season and considered merging the two organizations.

K&L Gates provided \$70,000 in pro bono services to bring that merger to fruition. That donation generated more revenue, including \$85,000 in private donations and another \$50,000 in the form of a matching grant.

"The two groups were operating as separate organizations," said Tom Smith, managing partner of K&L Gates' Pittsburgh office. "They both have long called Pittsburgh home, and both have demonstrated a commitment to bringing early music to audiences here and around the world. They felt they could do what they do better if they merged. It was a fairly significant undertaking with the collection of documents, in-person interviews, a letter of intent, support services agreement, getting approvals and filing with the Pennsylvania Department of State."

K&L Gates has provided support to Chatham Baroque for nearly two decades. One of their attorneys has served on the board since 2000.

While a merger can often be a difficult task, [Donna Goyak](#), executive director of Chatham Baroque Inc., the newly merged organization, said she appreciates the K&L Gates attorneys' approach.

"When you're sitting in a room with a lawyer working on a merger agreement and everyone's smiling, that's pretty extraordinary," she said. "[David Valenti](#), the lead lawyer, was terrific to be around. He was able to explain the process every step of the way. He communicates in a way that makes it easy to understand."

"The K&L Gates representatives who have served on our board have a passion for early music," she added. "They attend the concerts, purchase our CDs and attend our special events. They've formed relationships with our staff and the musicians over the years."



K&L GATES

K&L Gates provided pro bono services that allowed Chatham Baroque to merge with another early music organization.

For Smith, the relationship with Chatham Baroque is one aspect of a much broader approach to giving back. The firm recorded at least 70,000 hours of pro bono service in both 2016 and 2017, and won the Law Firm Pro Bono award last year from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation.

“The benefits are varied and impact people in many different ways,” he said. “We also encourage our attorneys to work with our clients and support their causes. It helps you to get to know your clients better and for them to know you.”

Infobox:

Featured nonprofit: Chatham Baroque Inc.

K&L Gates based: 45 offices on five continents, Pittsburgh was original office

What the company does: Law firm

Employees: About 3,600

Nonprofits it supports: Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, foundations, universities, United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania

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