

Chamber **Music** America

# 2023 Ensemble Forward Program

Application Deadline:

October 13, 2022

11:59 PM, E.T.

Notification: December 2022

*Grants made through this program are funded through the generosity of  
The New York Community Trust.*

# About Ensemble Forward

Chamber Music America's *Ensemble Forward* program is an initiative for emerging ensembles that perform Western European classical and contemporary chamber music and are based in the five boroughs of New York City. The goals of this program are to support ensembles at a crucial time in their career development and to help them navigate an increasingly demanding cultural landscape.

# Statement of Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

CMA's Board of Directors has made diversity, inclusion, and equity a primary focus of the organization's work and has adopted the acronym ALAANA (African/Black, Latinx, Asian/South Asian, Arab/Middle Eastern, and Native American) for use in its equity focus.

Read CMA's Statement of Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion and Equity, which can be found on the CMA [website](#).

# Program Support

CMA will provide grant funds for ensembles to:

- Work with an established chamber music coach to help them develop their distinctive ensemble sound
- Make career information resources available
- Create networking opportunities for ensemble musicians to meet each other, as well as composers and presenters, further enlarging their professional circles
- Career training and advancement through CMA's Learning Residentials
- Financial support for making a demo recording

# Ensemble eligibility

An ensemble is eligible if:

- It consists of 2 -10 musicians;
- It is based in one of the five boroughs of New York City;
- A minimum of one member of the Ensemble is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;
- It performs Western European classical and/or contemporary chamber music.

# Ensemble eligibility (cont'd)

The ensemble:

- Members may be recent conservatory, college, or community college graduates or have reached a high level of performance through other music instruction;
- May include a member that is on track to graduate before December 2023, however, student ensembles are not eligible;
- Must be no more than five years into its professional career;
- If a prior Ensemble Forward grant recipient, the ensemble applicant must have finished its prior project and submitted a final report.

# The Coach

- Applicants to the program must apply with an ensemble coach, an experienced artist-educator from the classical and/or contemporary music field.
- Applicants may consult with CMA staff to help identify a coach for their ensemble or engage a coach of their choice. The coach must be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S



# Grant Funds are Designated For

- Ensemble Coaching Sessions
- Ensemble and Coach Fees
  - A total of \$1,000 per ensemble musician for five sessions with the Coach (\$200 per session per musician). Sessions must be completed by December 31, 2023.
  - A total of \$2,500 for the Coach (\$500 per session for five sessions) to work with the Ensemble. Sessions must be a minimum of 90 minutes.
- Demo Recording: Support in the amount of \$4,000 for making a demo recording.

For example, if you are a quartet

Your grant = \$10,500

- \$4,000 ensemble fee
- \$2,500 coach fee
- \$4,000 demo recording fee

# Grant Funds (cont'd)

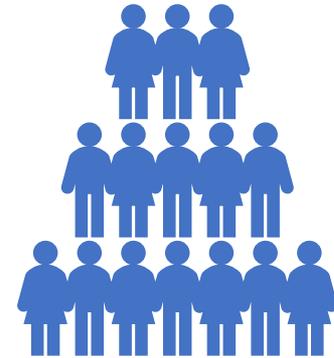
- CMA National Conference: Complimentary registration for the complete ensemble to attend the 2023 CMA National Conference, January 5–8, 2023, taking place in New York City.
- Learning Residentials:
  - This 6-month curriculum will commence during the 2023 CMA National Conference
  - Workshops for grantee ensembles, led by industry professionals, offering relevant career development expertise.
    - Possible topics will include organizational management, budgeting, taxes, fundraising, marketing, copyright, etc.). Sessions will be held on the Hopin platform.
  - Grantee ensembles will also receive mentorship by Learning Residentials presenters who will help to create an action plan for implementation that can support each group.
  - Each grantee ensemble will need to have ensemble representation present for all workshops offered.

# Grant Funds (cont'd)



## CMA Staff Check-ins:

Check-ins with CMA staff on the group's progress throughout the grant cycle.



## CMA Membership: Grantees

receive a one-year complimentary CMA Ensemble-level membership.

# The written application will include:

- Ensemble size, list of musicians and instrumentation
- Background about the ensemble
- Background about the coach
- Coaching session information
- Ensemble career development information



# Ensemble audio

- Two ensemble audio samples are required and must be uploaded to the online application.
- Samples should be up to 5 minutes each and feature works for small ensemble (2-10 musicians).
- Samples should demonstrate the ensemble's performance level and must feature either the full ensemble or at least 50% of its musicians.\* Include contrasting works, if possible.



RECORDING



# Ensemble Audio

- Soloistic works are not recommended.
- \*A duo must submit works with both partners.\*
- Only mp3 and/or m4a file types are accepted.
- Samples do not need to be of studio quality but should be clear and representative of the ensemble's performance within the last two years.

# To Apply



Create a free Submittable account or log-in to your existing Submittable account



Type directly into the online form or draft your application in an offline document and copy your responses into the online application



Click SAVE DRAFT on bottom of application. Submittable maintains your draft for 21 days

# To Apply



Only online applications  
via Submittable are  
accepted



Upload items in  
accepted file formats in  
the application



Label Audio Files  
as follows:

Ensemble  
Name –  
Audio 1

Ensemble  
Name –  
Audio 2

A complete application includes



Complete written application



Audio Samples for Ensemble



Memorandum(s) of Understanding between the Ensemble and Coach

# Completing the application

## Prepare

Prepare your attachments and title each file using CMA's labeling instructions

## Upload

Upload all required files

## Click

When application is complete, click SUBMIT

## Confirm

CMA will confirm receipt via email

## Panel basics

- U.S.-based musicians review the applications
- Panel evaluation takes place through an “anonymous listening” process
- The panel will take place in late November/early December; applicants will be notified in December

# Panel review process

The panel will review:

Written application

- why and how the coaching sessions will be beneficial to the ensemble's artistic development
- the ensemble's proposed repertoire for their coaching sessions and the reason(s) for the choice(s);
- why they have chosen a particular coach and their plan for working with them;
- how the Learning Residentials will be valuable for their career as a group.

# Panel Review Process

## Audio samples

- potential for artistic growth based on the ensemble's audio samples.
- Panel evaluation takes place through anonymous listening

# Scoring, Notes and Feedback

- The panel uses a scoring system of 10 (excellent), 4 (good/very good), 1 (non-competitive)
- Panelists also write notes on their review sheets
- Panel feedback—scores and notes are provided to applicants after notifications are made

# Grant award and payment

If awarded an *Ensemble Forward* grant, one member of the ensemble must serve as the primary contact for the grant. They will be responsible for:

- serving as the grant contact for CMA
- providing government issued documentation as proof of their U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status
- proof of their New York City domicile
- U.S. citizenship or permanent residence confirmation for their Coach
- scheduling the coaching sessions
- studio documentation for the demo recording
- receiving and managing the grant funds
- filing the final report

# Grant award and payment, cont'd

Grant funds will be disbursed as follows:

- 75% of the award for the Ensemble Forward grant, including coachings and demo recording expenses, after signing its CMA grant contract
- 25% after receipt of a final report

Grant funds are taxable income; grantees must comply with all applicable city, state, and federal laws, ordinances, codes, and regulations regarding the reporting of grant funds.

# CMA Resources

- [Grant & Award Recipients](#)
- [Press Room](#)
- [Statement of Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion and Equity](#)

Thank you!

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