

Chamber *Music* America

2024 Ensemble Forward Program

Application Deadline:

Thursday, October 5, 2023

11:59 PM, E.T.

Notification: December 2023

*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.

Program Support

CMA will provide grant funds for ensembles to:

- Work with an established chamber music coach to help them develop their artistry
- Financial support to make a demo recording & support administrative functions (marketing, outreach, etc.)
- 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

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](#).

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.

- 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 2024, 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

Grant Period: January 1 – December 31, 2024

Ensemble Coaching Sessions Payment

- A total of \$1,000 per ensemble musician (\$200 per musician for five sessions) with the Coach
- A total of \$2,500 for the Coach (\$500 per session for five sessions) to work with the Ensemble
- Five coaching sessions must be a minimum of 90 minutes each and completed by December 31, 2024

Demo Recording

- Support in the amount of \$4,000 for making a demo recording.

For example, if you are a quartet

Your grant = \$12,000

- \$4,000 ensemble payment
- \$2,500 coach payment
- \$4,000 demo recording payment
- \$1,500 administrative payment

Grant Funds
cont'd.

CMA National
Conference: Complimentary
registration for the complete
ensemble to attend the 2024
CMA National Conference,
January 18–21, 2024 in New
York City. The conference is
taking place at the Westin
New York at Times Square.

Grant Funds cont'd.

Learning Residentials:

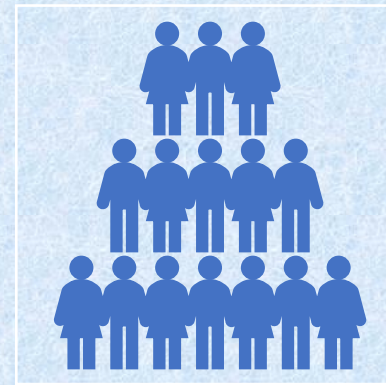
- 6-month curriculum will start during the 2024 CMA National Conference
 - Workshops led by industry professionals, offering relevant career development expertise.
 - Possible topics - organizational management, budgeting, taxes, fundraising, marketing, copyright, etc.). Sessions will be held on the Hopin platform.
- Grantees will receive mentorship by Learning Residential presenters through the workshop curriculum
- 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 Application

Written Application will require:

- Ensemble size, personnel, and instrumentation
- Ensemble and coach background
- Ensemble's reason for choosing coach and plan for coaching sessions
- How the coaching sessions and demo recording will be beneficial to the ensemble's artistic and career development
- Career development areas the ensemble wants to explore



Audio Samples

- 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 must feature either the full ensemble or at least 50% of its musicians. A duo must submit works with both partners*



RECORDING



Audio Samples cont'd.

- Samples should be representative of the ensemble's performance within the last two years
- Include contrasting works if possible
- Soloistic works are not recommended
- Samples do not need to be of studio quality but should be clear
- Only mp3 and/or m4a file types are accepted
- Label audio files: Ensemble Name – Audio 1, Ensemble Name – Audio 2

Panel Review Process

- U.S.-based musicians review the applications
- The panel will take place in December; applicants will be notified in December

Panel Review Process

The panel will review written application based on clarity and thoughtfulness of responses to:

- Ensemble's reason for choosing coach and plan for coaching sessions
- How the coaching sessions and demo recording will be beneficial to the ensemble's artistic and career development
- Career development areas the ensemble wants to explore

Panel Review Process

The Panel will review audio samples for:

- Technical skill in executing selections
- Potential for artistic growth

Panel Scoring and Feedback

- The panel uses a scoring system of 10 (excellent), 7 (good), 4 (average), 1 (non-competitive)
- Panel feedback is verbally provided to applicants by the grants department after notifications are made. (Applicants can schedule a short call to receive feedback.)

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 interim and final report

Grant Award and Payment cont'd.

Grant funds will be disbursed as follows:

- Majority of the award for the Ensemble Forward grant received after signing of CMA grant contract, including
 - ensemble member payment
 - coach payment
 - half of demo recording payment
 - administrative payment (marketing, PR, etc.)
- Remaining \$2,000 demo recording payment after receipt of all reports

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.

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.

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

CMA Resources

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

Thank you!

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