

Chamber *Music* America

2024 Performance Plus Program

Application Deadline:

February 1, 2024

11:59 PM, E.T.

Notification: April 2024

A component of the Doris Duke Jazz Ensembles Project, Performance Plus program is funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

About *Performance Plus*

Chamber Music America's *Performance Plus* program recognizes the contributions and diversity of perspectives that U.S.-based gender minorities and women bring to the field of jazz.

The program provides grants to U.S.-based gender minority and women-led jazz ensembles to engage an experienced jazz coach for six coaching sessions with the goal of further developing the ensemble's performance. The coaching sessions will culminate in a recording session resulting in a high-quality demo for use by the jazz ensemble.

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 is a professional gender minority and women-led jazz ensemble consisting of 2-10 musicians that includes improvisation as an integral part of composition and performance. (The ensemble bandleader must be a gender minority or woman professional jazz musician);
- it is based in the U.S., Indian Country, or U.S. territories

Ensemble Eligibility (cont'd.)

- the ensemble bandleader is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;
- the ensemble bandleader or the ensemble have no overdue reports or financial obligations to CMA
- the bandleader must be a CMA member at the individual membership level or the ensemble must be a CMA organization-level member [at time of application](#);

***Current primary contacts/bandleaders for New Jazz Works and Artistic Projects grants cannot apply.*

Coach Eligibility

The Coach:

- must be a jazz bandleader with demonstrated experience in performance, composing, arranging, instruction, and recording;
- must be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.

Grant Components and Funding

1. Ensemble Coaching Sessions Payment

- Funding of \$200 per ensemble musician for each of the six coaching sessions with the Coach. (Total of \$2,400 for a duo to \$12,000 for a 10-member ensemble). Ensemble members must be present for the sessions. Sessions must be completed by March 31, 2025.

2. Coach Payment

- Payment of \$500 for the Coach for each of the six coaching sessions with the ensemble. Sessions must be a minimum of 90 minutes. (Total of \$3,000 for six coaching sessions.)

3. Demo Recording

- Funding (\$6,500) must be used for recording a demo of only the works rehearsed in sessions with the coach. Demo recording must be completed by September 30, 2025.

4. Consultations with CMA Staff

For example, if you are a quartet

- $\$200 \times 6$ coaching sessions $\times 4$ musicians = $\$4,800$ ensemble payment
- $\$500 \times 6$ coaching sessions = $\$3,000$ coach payment
- $\$6,500$ demo recording payment

Your Grant = $\$14,300$

Timeline

- Application due: February 1, 2024 at 11:59pm EST
- Notification: April 2024
- Grant period: April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025
- Coaching sessions complete by March 31, 2025
- Demo recording complete & final report due by September 30, 2025

The written application



- Ensemble contact, demographic, personnel information
- Coach information
- Grant Request Summary
 - How coaching sessions will benefit the ensemble
 - Why ensemble chose coach
 - Timeline for coaching sessions and studio recording

Audio Upload

- 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*
- Audio Summary: Instrumentation, track length, and cue times are required to guide the panel's listening.



RECORDING



Audio upload (cont'd.)

- Samples should be representative of the ensemble's performance within the last two years
- Longer works may be edited and/or excerpted
- Soloistic works are not recommended
- Samples do not need to be of studio quality but should be clear
- May contain music from a live concert, studio/home recording, and/or CD or online recording.
- Only mp3 and/or m4a file types are accepted

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

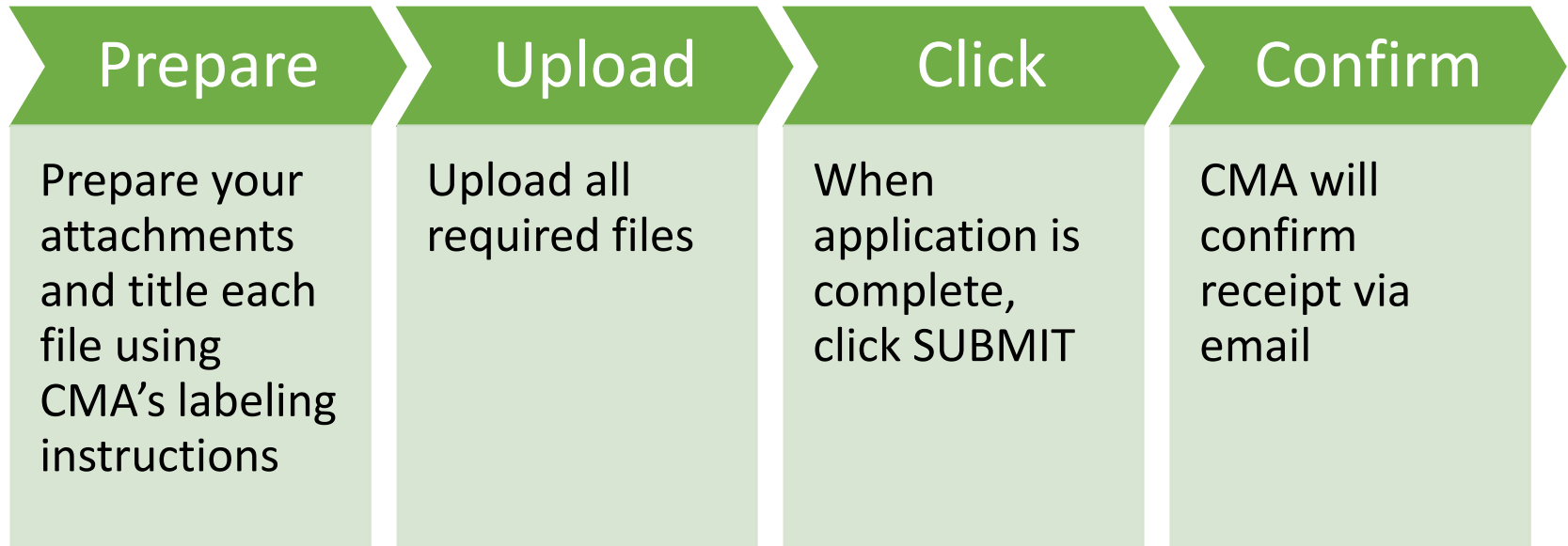
Ensemble Name – Audio 2

A complete application includes

- Complete written application
- Audio Samples for Ensemble
- Memorandum of Understanding between the bandleader and coach



Completing the application



Panel Basics



- *Performance Plus* applications are reviewed by an independent panel of chamber music professionals; CMA staff and board do not participate in the deliberations ([Representative list of previous CMA panelists](#)).
- The panel will take place early March; applicants will be notified in April.



Panel Review Process

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

- why and how the coaching sessions will benefit the ensemble at this stage in its career
- why the ensemble has chosen a particular coach and its plan for working with them
- proposed timeline for the coaching sessions and the studio recording. Include the months, city, and state where coaching sessions will take place.




Panel Review Process (cont'd.)

Audio samples

- Ensemble audio samples are evaluated for artistic and technical strength, and cohesiveness of the ensemble in performing scored and improvised music.

Scoring, Notes, & Feedback

- The panel uses a scoring system of 10 (excellent), 7 (good), 4 (average), 1 (non-competitive)
 - 10- detailed and clearly defined
 - 7- general, but it is still a good project/idea that can be understood
 - 4- needs clarity and further planning, but it is still possible to understand the project
 - 1- unclear project description or lacks planning



Scoring, Notes, & Feedback

- 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, the bandleader must serve as the primary contact for the grant and is responsible for:

- providing government issued documentation as proof of their U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status;
- receiving and managing the grant funds;
- filing the interim reports, final reports, and associated documents including copy of the demo in mp3 or m4a format.

Grant Award and Payment (cont'd.)

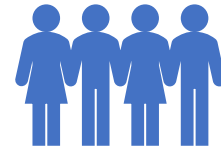
Grant funds will be disbursed as follows:

- Ensemble payment in full; Coach payment in full; and \$4,500 of demo recording payment to be disbursed after signing the CMA grant contract;
- \$2,000 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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