



# 2025 New Jazz Works Program

Application Deadline:

Thursday, February 27, 2025

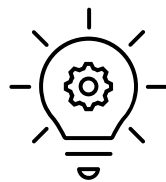
11:59 PM, ET

Notification: June 2025

*A component of the Doris Duke Jazz Ensembles Project,  
New Jazz Works is funded by the Doris Duke Foundation.*

# About *New Jazz Works*

- Since 2000, Chamber Music America has commissioned [over 300 original jazz works](#).
- The New Jazz Works program provides grants to jazz ensembles based in the U.S., its territories including Puerto Rico, and Indian country to create, perform, and record new jazz works.
- The new work may be composed by the ensemble leader or a member of the ensemble/collective.



Reminder: This presentation is not meant to replace the details in the full project guidelines. [Please refer to the guidelines for all the details connected to the grant.](#)

# Eligibility

- Ensembles consisting of 2-10 musicians (including guest artists) may apply to this program.
- The primary contact for the application or the ensemble must have current CMA membership status at the time of applying.
- New Jazz Works funds musical artists only; non-musical artists are not supported by this program.
- An ensemble or composer may be on an application in either CMA's 2025 New Jazz Works program or the 2025 Classical Commissioning program, but not both
- If the ensemble or commissioned composer has a current 2025 commissioning project under a 2025 Artistic Projects grant, they cannot apply.

# Ensemble Eligibility

An ensemble is eligible if:

- It is a professional composer-led or collective jazz ensemble (student groups are not eligible).
- It is based in the U.S., its territories or Indian country.
- The leader is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;
- It includes improvisation as an integral part of composition and performance;
- It has no overdue financial or reporting obligations to CMA or for any CMA grants.

# Composer Eligibility

The composer:

- may be either the bandleader or a member of the ensemble/collective
- is an individual, not a group
- must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- must have fulfilled any outstanding obligations from prior CMA grants at the time of application.

# The Composition

- Must be of substantial length (at least 10 minutes); this may be one extended work or shorter pieces that together form a larger work.
- Feature improvisation as an integral part of the composition.
- Be written for 2-10 musicians; the total number of musicians including the performing composer and guest artists must not exceed 10.
- Be scored for one musician per part
- Result in a printed score, lead sheet, or other form of graphic notation or nontraditional documentation.

\*If the commissioned work will be written as part of a multi-disciplinary project, it must also be a stand-alone work for performance.

# The commission may not be:

- previously written works
- works-in-progress
- arrangements
- chamber opera
- incidental music

Additionally, CMA cannot consider applications:

- requesting funding for non-musical artists
- requesting fees for student musicians
- requesting funds for classes or workshops for music students

# Grant Components and Funding

<b>Composer Payment</b>	<b>\$ 9,000</b>
Ensemble Member Payment for U.S. World Premiere	\$1,000 per Musician
Continued Life Funding	\$ 15,000
Administrative Support	\$ 3,000



For example, if you are a quartet

- \$9,000 composer fee
- \$4,000 ensemble fee
- \$15,000 continued life
- \$3,000 administrative support

Your Grant = \$31,000

# *New Jazz Works* is a three-year grant

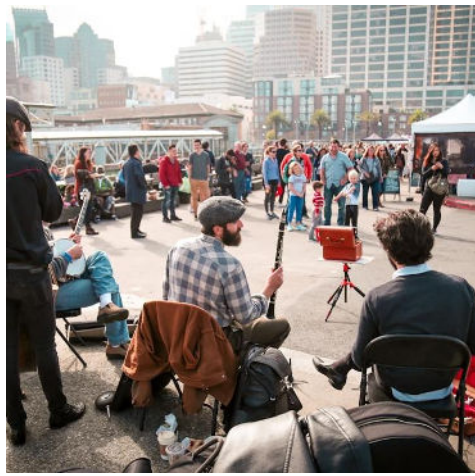
CMA provides grantees three years from July 1, 2025– June 30, 2028 to complete a *New Jazz Works* project including:

- Creation of the new work
- World premiere by December 31, 2026
- Two additional public performances or one additional public performance with distribution quality audio/video recording by June 30, 2028

\*In-person performances can take place in the U.S. and/or abroad.

**2 of the performances for the grant must be U.S.-based.**





# What is a public performance?

- A public performance is music played outside a normal circle of friends and family that occurs in any public place that is accessible a gathering of general audiences.
- A public performance also occurs when music is transmitted digital service providers like a live-streamed concert



# What are general audiences?

- General audiences are the group of people who have gathered to watch or listen to the event in an accessible public setting.
- Conferences do not count as public events for the purposes of the grant as they are exclusive to a specific audience that is not accessible to the public. (An attendee can't bring a friend, child, etc.)



# Panel Review Process

- Applications are reviewed by an independent panel of jazz music professionals; CMA staff and board do not participate in the deliberations.  
([Representative list of panelists](#))
- Panel evaluation takes place through an anonymous listening process
- Applicants will be notified in June.



# Panel Review Process

The reviews:

- Composer audio samples for originality in compositional technique and skill in arranging for jazz ensembles.
- Ensemble audio samples for the technical and artistic strength of individual instrumentalists to understand the composer's arrangement(s).
- Ensemble audio samples for cohesiveness of the ensemble in performing scored and improvised music.

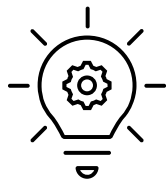


# Scoring & Feedback

- The panel uses a scoring system of 10 (excellent), 7 (good) 4 (average), 1 (non-competitive)
- Panel feedback is provided to applicants after notifications of declination or award. CMA provides the verbal feedback, but does not provide individual scores or feedback in writing. Feedback calls are made by appointment

# The written application

- Lists all personnel in the ensemble including band leader and guest artists who will perform the new work for the duration of the grant.
- Ensemble bio
- Composer bio
- Grant request summary



Reminder: The panel does *NOT* review the written application.





## Composer Audio

- Submit one file up to four minutes long
- must feature a single original composition or excerpt from that composition by the composer on the application for a small ensemble (need not be performed by applicant ensemble)
- Save files as acceptable file types: mp3, m4a



## Ensemble audio

- Submit one file up to 4 minutes long
- must feature a single work or an excerpt from that work performed by the applicant ensemble or majority of its members (need not be original compositions)
- Save files as acceptable file types: mp3, m4a

# Audio Uploads

- Submit audio featuring only small ensemble music (2-10 musicians) including guest artists.
- Samples should demonstrate the composer's strongest compositions and ensemble's performance level and must feature either the full ensemble or at least 50% of its musicians.
- Include contrasting works, if possible.
- Soloistic works are not recommended.
- A duo must submit works with both partners.
- Only mp3 and/or m4a file types are accepted.

## Audio Uploads cont'd.

- Submit up to 4 minutes of a single work on each file. Works longer than 4 minutes, must be edited and/or excerpted to highlight specific sections.
- Each track must feature scored and improvised sections.
- Samples do not need to be of studio quality but should be clear and representative of the ensemble's performance (Please be advised: Poor recording quality affects the panelists' ability to judge the application.)

# Audio Uploads cont'd

- Upload Audio Summary Table in online application
  - Includes instrumentation, track length, and cue times to guide the panel's listening for each submitted track
- Upload score for 1 composer sample to online application
  - Relevant section of the printed score, lead sheet, or graphic notation
  - Save file as acceptable file types: PDF

# A complete application includes

- Completed Written Application
- Grant Request Summary
- Upload 2 Audio Samples for Composer and Ensemble
- Audio Summary Table
- Upload 1 score for Composer Audio



# 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



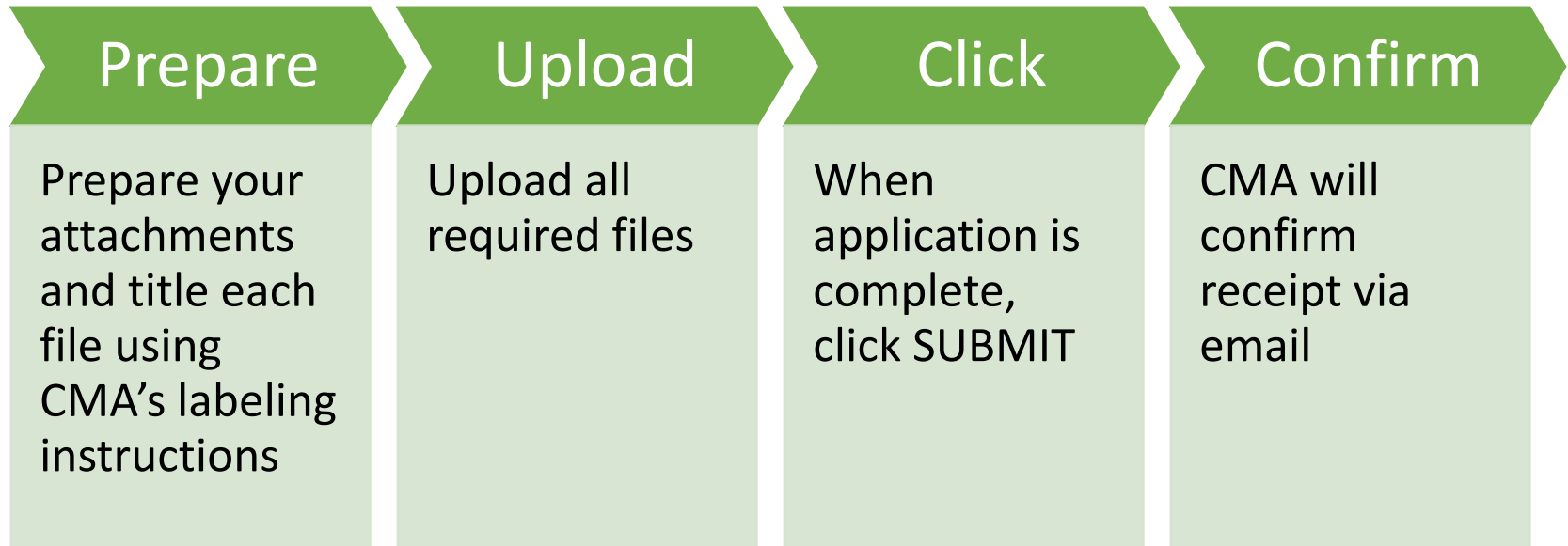
Upload items in accepted file  
formats in the application



Label Audio Files as follows:  
Ensemble Name – Audio 1;  
etc. | Composer Name –  
Audio 3; etc.



# Completing the application



## Grant Award and Payment

If awarded, the member of the ensemble serving as the primary contact for the grant is responsible for:

- acting as the contact for CMA on behalf of the ensemble;
- providing government issued documentation as proof of their U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status;
- receiving and managing the grant funds- fiscal sponsors are not accepted
- maintaining CMA membership through the entire grant period;
- filing the required reports and associated materials.

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](#)
- [New Jazz Works Grant](#)
- [Membership](#)



# Thank you!

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