



2026 Presenter Consortium for Jazz Program

Deadline: Thursday, September 25, 2025, 11:59 PM ET

Notification: December 2025

Grant Period: January 1, 2026-June 30, 2027

A component of the Doris Duke Jazz Ensembles Project, Presenter Consortium for Jazz is funded by The Doris Duke Foundation.

About Presenter Consortium for Jazz

Presenter Consortium for Jazz offers funding to an applicant in a consortium of up to three U.S.-based presenters to engage one to three jazz ensembles for in-person concerts or livestreamed performances for their respective audiences.

About Presenter Consortium for Jazz

Applicants may participate in only one Presenter Consortium for Jazz application per grant period and must be 501(c)(3) organizations. Current Presenter Consortium for Jazz grantees are not eligible to apply. Grants will fund 100% of eligible expenses up to \$15,000 for the applicant. The applicant receives all grant funds and is responsible for the distribution to consortium partners as needed for the project.

What is a Presenter Consortium?

- A presenter consortium consists of an applicant that is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) partnering with 1 or 2 partner presenters that collectively engage one to three jazz ensembles to perform for their respective audiences.
- The ensemble(s) will present in-person concerts or streamed performances for each presenter's audience.

What is a Presenter Consortium (cont.)

- The ensemble(s) must be presented by each presenter in the consortium.
- Presenters can be located within the same U.S. state or territory but must serve distinct audience communities such as different neighborhoods, towns, cities, or regions.
- The applicant must be a current CMA member with an organization level membership.
- The applicant must be a 501(c)(3) organization.
- The applicant must show proof of 501(c)3 status.
- Performances must be public, accessible, and inclusive. A public performance is one that takes place in a venue or digital setting open to general audiences, not just invited guests or personal networks. This includes live-streamed concerts, as long as they are publicly viewable. For the purposes of this grant, conferences do not qualify as public events.

What is a Consortium Project?

- A consortium project is an in-person or livestreamed performance presented by the applicant and one or two partner presenters, in collaboration with one to three jazz ensembles.
- Performances are not required to be on consecutive dates.
- The applicant may collaborate with one or two partners listed on the grant to market, manage, and present the project.
- The applicant and the partner presenter(s) listed on the grant are responsible for keeping track of and following any radius clauses required by their organization or the ensembles they are partnering with.
- Partner presenters are not required to be 501(c)(3) organizations.

What are the partners in the Presenter Consortium?

Applicant

- Presenter that submits the application and is responsible for planning and managing the grant.
- The applicant receives all grant funds and is responsible for the distribution to the consortium partners as needed for the project.

Partner Presenter

- Presenter that agrees to engage the ensemble(s), host a public performance, and provide audiences.
- All partner presenters will engage all ensemble(s) that appear on the application.

Ensemble

- Jazz ensemble(s) that carry out the performances .

Funding Priorities

Chamber Music America gives priority to projects that demonstrate community impact.

Community impact:

- Creates more access to jazz chamber music.
- Fosters a sense of respect and appreciation for jazz chamber music.
- Creates opportunities for ensembles and presenters to engage with current and new audiences.

Examples of community impact can include:

- Advancing or highlighting cultural richness and creativity of a community.
- Fostering collaboration between ensembles, presenters, or other organizations and the communities they serve.
- Outreach and/or engagement with audiences that are underrepresented or underserved by existing programs.

Eligibility - Presenters

- Consortia that have received CMA funding in the past three grant years (since 2023) are not eligible for 2026 Presenter Consortium for Jazz funding. However, past participants can apply for funding with a new set of partners.
- For example, the ABC Festival received a grant in 2023, it cannot apply in 2026 with the same consortium partners, but it may apply with new ones.

Eligibility – Presenters (cont.)

Eligible applicants:

- Must be presenting organizations based in the U.S. or its territories.
- Must be located in distinct audience communities, such as different neighborhoods, towns, cities, or regions.
- Must be 501(c)(3) organizations
- Must provide proof of 501(c)3 status.
- Must be a current CMA member with an organization level membership.
- Must have no outstanding financial obligations to CMA.

Eligibility – Presenters (cont.)

Ineligible requests include projects that:

- Require a fiscal sponsor
- Involve consortium partners who appear on more than one application
- Request funding for artist fees other than those for ensemble musicians and their guest artists
- Request funding for capacity building or general operating support (administrative expenses directly related to the project may be included in the project budget)
- Are private or fundraising events
- Are primarily focused on arts education
- Include fees for student musicians, faculty, or administrative staff salaries
- Include classes or workshops for music students
- Involve music for dramatic works (staged or un-staged)
- Are intended as incidental music for other media
- Request funding for recording costs
- Request funding for commissioning fees
- Are submitted by individuals, ensembles, or organizations with outstanding obligations to Chamber Music America

Eligibility – Ensembles Collaborating with Presenters

The jazz ensemble(s) selected by the applicant:

- Must be based in the U.S. or its territories
- Must consist of 2–10 professional musicians, including any guest artists (student groups are not eligible)
- Must primarily perform jazz music in one of its multifaceted styles, with improvisation as an integral part of its composition and performance
- Are not required to be CMA members

Eligibility – Current Grantees

Applicants with an active Presenter Consortium for Jazz grant may not apply.

Eligible Expenses

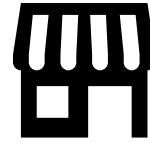
The following expenses are allowed if they are directly related to the project:

- Ensemble and guest artist fees
- Concert production costs (lighting, sound, cartage, etc.)
- Streaming production costs
- Direct promotion, marketing, and advertising expenses
- Travel and hotel, per diem
- Administrative expenses directly related to the project

Sample Consortium Partnership- ABC Jazz Festival



- **ABC Jazz Festival**
[The Applicant- 501(c)3]
 - \$8,000 for ABC Festival to showcase the ensemble (\$5,000 for festival & \$3,000 for booking The Jazz Bop Venue)
 - \$2,000 to The Jazz Bop Venue for Marketing
 - \$5,000 for paying The Jazz Ensemble
- Estimated Profit: \$10,000 in ticket sales



- **The Jazz Bop Venue**
[Partner Presenter 1]
 - Spending \$5,000 to showcase the ensemble
 - \$7,000 for paying The Jazz Ensemble
- Estimated Profit: \$15,000 in ticket sales



- **The Jazz Ensemble**
[The Ensemble]
 - Paid \$5,000 from applicant
 - Paid \$7,000 from Partner Presenter 1

Sample Consortium Partnership- ABC Jazz Festival

- Potential results of Sample Consortium Partnership- ABC Jazz Festival:
 - A better marketing campaign by using the marketing team at The Jazz Bop Venue
 - Securing a continued tour and block booking for The Jazz Ensemble off the festival stage by working with The Jazz Bop Venue
 - ALL the Consortium partners get access to broader audiences through cross-promotion and greater audience exposure
 - The Jazz Ensemble is being invited back for the ABC Jazz Festival next year.

Funding Amounts and Time Period

- Grants will cover 100% of eligible expenses, up to \$15,000 per applicant. No matching funds are required. If a project costs more than \$15,000, the applicant must describe how they will pay for the additional expenses. The applicant receives all grant funds and is responsible for the distribution to consortium partner presenters as needed for the project.
- All Presenter Consortium for Jazz grant projects must take place between January 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027.
- Please Note: Grant funds are considered taxable income. Grantees must comply with all applicable city, state, and federal laws, ordinances, codes, and regulations regarding income reporting.

CMA Membership Requirements

- Applicants must hold a current CMA organization level membership.
- Ensembles and organization partners do not have to be CMA members.

Panel Review Process – Written Application

Presenter Consortium for Jazz applications are reviewed by an independent panel of jazz professionals. CMA staff and board do not score or select applicants.

Written Application- 60% of total score

The panel will review:

- The project description
- The project's timeline and detailed plan for completing the project within the grant period
- How the project will advance the impact within the applicant's audience community
- The applicant's strategy for reaching target audiences, including a detailed marketing plan
- The rationale for selecting the proposed ensemble, and how participation in the consortium will benefit the ensemble;
- The rationale for selecting the proposed partner presenter(s), and how participation in the consortium will benefit the organization

Panel Review Process – Audio and Budget

Audio Review- 10% of the total score

- Audio submissions should demonstrate alignment between the ensemble's sound and the project's artistic goals.

Budget Review- 30% of the total score

- The budget should reflect a clear understanding of industry-appropriate rates and demonstrate that the project can be executed successfully with the proposed resources. If the total budget exceeds \$15,000, applicants must explain how additional costs will be covered.

Panel Scoring and Feedback

- The panel uses a scoring system of 10 (excellent), 7 (good), 4 (average), 1 (non-competitive/ineligible)
- While CMA does not give out the panel scores, panel feedback is verbally provided to applicants by Grants Department after notifications are made (Applicants can schedule a short call to receive feedback.) CMA does not provide written feedback from the panel.

Awarded Grantee Responsibilities

Grantees are responsible for:

- Serving as the primary contact for CMA and managing all grant activity on behalf of their presenting organization
- Receiving and managing their grant funds
- Ensuring timely payment to the ensemble(s)
- Filing a final report and all associated documents
- Providing marketing materials showing that each partner organization presented the ensembles
- Reporting audience numbers for partner presenters' performances

Awarded Grantees - Funds

- 100% of the award will be disbursed after signing the CMA grant contract
- All reporting must be completed to remain in good standing with CMA
- Please Note: Grant funds are considered taxable income; grantees must comply with all applicable city, state, and federal laws, ordinances, codes, and regulations regarding the reporting of grant funds.
- Grantees may not receive funds through a fiscal sponsor.

How to Apply

- CMA uses the online application platform Submittable. Visit cma.submittable.com to create a free Submittable account if you do not already have one.
- CMA recommends saving your application draft in an offline document as a backup. To retain your progress in the platform, click “Save Draft” at the bottom of the form before exiting. You can return to your saved application by logging into your Submittable account.
- The application will close promptly at 11:59 PM ET on Thursday, September 25, 2025. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline to avoid any last-minute complications.
 - CMA recommends that you save your draft in an offline document as backup.
 - To save the work you have done on your application, you must click SAVE DRAFT at the bottom of the form before exiting.
 - You can return to your saved application to continue working on it by following the log-in instructions.

Application Uploads - Audio

A jazz ensemble audio sample is required and must be uploaded to the online application.

- The sample should be no more than 4 minutes in length
- The sample must feature works for small jazz ensembles (2-10 musicians)
- The sample should demonstrate the ensemble's performance level and must feature either the full ensemble or at least 50% of its musicians
- Solo works are not recommended; duos must submit a work featuring both partners
- Accepted file types: .mp3 and .m4a
- Studio-quality recordings are not necessary, but audio must be clear and recorded within the past two years
- Excerpts of longer works are acceptable
- Recordings may come from live concerts, studio or home recordings, CDs, or online releases

Application Uploads (cont.)

Other Required Uploads

- Project budget using CMA's required budget template – can be downloaded at <https://chambermusicamerica.org/grants/presenter-consortium-for-jazz/>
- Proof of 501(c)(3) status for the applicant
- Marketing sample, such as a social media ad, poster, or flyer

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

- A Memorandum of Understanding is required for each project and must document the intent to collaborate between the applicant, partner presenter(s), and ensemble(s).
- A sample MOU can be downloaded here:
- Sample MOU Word Document
- Sample MOU PDF

To Submit an Application

- Visit cma.submittable.com and click on “Presenter Consortium for Jazz”
- Complete all required fields, including text boxes, the Funding Request, and Audio Sample information
- Prepare your audio samples, marketing sample, and MOU attachments
- Save audio files as: Ensemble Name-Audio 1; acceptable file types: mp3, m4a
- Upload the audio files, marketing sample, and MOUs to the application
- When complete, sign and date your application
- Click “Submit” ; you will receive a confirmation email

CMA Resources

- [Prior CMA Grant Recipients](#)
- [Press & Announcements](#)

Thank you!

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