

Chamber Music America

2011 ENSEMBLE SHOWCASE APPLICATION

CMA National Conference

January 14-16, 2011

Westin New York at Times Square

In-Office Application Deadline: Friday, October 22, 2010, 5:00 P.M.

Notification: November 2010

OVERVIEW

Chamber Music America will present showcases by CMA member ensembles during the 2011 National Conference in New York City. The showcases are scheduled throughout the weekend. No other conference activities take place during showcase performances.

Professional ensembles that perform early music, classical, contemporary, jazz, and/or world music are encouraged to apply. Showcases offer an opportunity for ensembles to market themselves and their work to a conference audience of presenters, artist managers, educators, and other colleagues.

To apply, an ensemble must be a CMA Organization-level member. An independent panel of presenters will select the showcase ensembles.

CMA provides a piano, drum kit, bass amp, music stands, and chairs. The ensemble must provide all other necessary equipment. We recommended that showcasing ensembles have an on-site representative to greet the audience, respond to inquiries, and distribute ensemble marketing materials.

There is no charge for ensembles to apply. If selected, ensembles must pay a \$500 showcasing fee, which includes conference registration for all members of the ensemble.

A. ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE

Your ensemble is eligible if it:

- has performed professionally as a group for a minimum of one year
- is able to document a minimum of five public performances within the past year
- has 2-10 members (note: soloists with accompanists are not eligible)
- has an ongoing, stable core of musicians
- is a CMA Organization-level member, and
- has no overdue reports or financial obligations to CMA.

B. ABOUT THE WRITTEN APPLICATION

The ensemble will be asked to:

- propose a 20-minute showcase program. It may consist of a single work, several pieces, or movements from larger compositions.
- provide an ensemble bio

- describe the ensemble's performance and/or touring history, including types of venues
- list ensemble personnel and instrumentation
- indicate which musicians will perform on the showcase (CMA allows substitutions, but the ensemble must notify CMA of any personnel changes prior to the showcase performance)
- list five of the ensemble's concerts from the past year and provide performance documentation
- discuss specific works, sample programs, or special projects that the group plans to undertake within the next two years
- provide a press kit
- indicate the ensemble's website

C. ABOUT THE CD-R WORK SAMPLE

The CD-R work sample should demonstrate the highest quality of your ensemble's performance and, if relevant, compositional and improvisational abilities.

Your work sample:

- may be no more than 20 minutes, and may include up to 3 tracks
- must feature music performed by your ensemble and recorded in the past two years; do not include works with guest artists
- should feature the music that your ensemble plans to perform in the showcase, or music similar in style
- may contain full-length pieces, excerpts from larger works, individual movements, or edited versions
- should include at least one work with the same personnel and instrumentation that you are proposing for the showcase (applies to mixed ensembles)
- must include key timings that indicate notated and improvised sections for each track (applies to jazz ensembles)
- may take the form of live, studio, or "home" recordings
- may draw from your commercially released CDs but must be re-recorded to the work sample
- must be in CD-R format only

Four copies of the CD-R are required.

Copy 1: Please provide the following information on both the disc and the insert:

- name of ensemble
- type of ensemble (string quartet, jazz trio)
- personnel and instrumentation

For each track, indicate:

- track number
- track length
- title of composition
- composer
- instrumentation and personnel
- date recorded, and
- whether electronics or special tunings are used

Copies 2, 3, and 4: please provide the following information on the disc and the insert:

- type of ensemble (string quartet, jazz trio)

Do NOT indicate the ensemble name or personnel on copies 2, 3, and 4; these CDs are distributed to the panelists for blind listening

For each track, indicate:

- track number
- track length
- title of composition
- composer (if the composer is a member of the ensemble, please write "ensemble member" without identifying him/her by name)
- instrumentation
- date recorded, and
- whether electronics or special tunings are used

D. ABOUT THE SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE

For the showcase, CMA will:

- provide a piano, standard drum kit, bass amp, music stands, and chairs
- assist with deliveries and rentals arranged and paid for by the ensemble
- publicize the showcases through its website, e-newsletter, press releases, and conference materials
- schedule and administer the showcases
- print a showcase program

Ensembles chosen to showcase will be responsible for:

- a \$500 showcase fee to be paid to CMA by November 19, 2010
- all travel and accommodation expenses for the ensemble
- instrument and equipment rentals other than what CMA provides (See "D." above..)
- providing publicity information to CMA
- any conference advertising, promotional, and/or exhibiting costs of your own choosing
- following up with showcase attendees after the conference

E. ABOUT THE PANEL REVIEW

A panel of presenters versed in multiple styles of chamber music (classical, contemporary, jazz, world) will review the applications and choose the ensembles. Neither CMA staff nor members of its board are permitted to serve on panels.

The panel process will consist of two rounds.

Round 1: "Blind" Listening to the CD Work Sample

In a "blind" review (the ensemble and its members are not identified), the panel will evaluate and score the ensemble's CD work sample based on:

- overall artistry
- ensemble cohesiveness
- sound
- compositional or improvisational ability (if applicable)

Round 2: Review of the Written Application, Press Kit and Website

The panel will evaluate the written applications, press kits, and websites of the ensembles that are advanced from Round 1 to Round 2. Scoring will be based on:

- the quality of the written application (adequate information about the ensemble, its performance and touring history, future programming)

- the quality of the press kit (adequate information about the ensemble, examples of concert programs, repertoire, reviews, and photos)
- the quality of the website (up-to-date information, ease of use, quality of photos and additional media)

D. APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The application package must include:

- One completed application with an original, authorized signature
- Three additional, complete copies of the application (collated, paper-clipped sets; not stapled)
- One piece of documentation for each of the five concerts listed in the application (e.g. programs, reviews, press releases)
- Four copies of the CD Work Sample
- Four press kits (include ensemble bio, reviews, concert programs, and/or other publicity materials).
- Technical rider and stage plot
- Website url for evaluation indicated on front page

The application must:

- be typed and submitted in hard copy
- be packaged in a single envelope
- arrive at CMA's offices in its entirety on or before Friday, October 22, 2010.

No late, incomplete, handwritten, faxed, or emailed applications will be accepted.

MAIL/DELIVER APPLICATION TO:

Chamber Music America
 2011 CMA Ensemble Showcase
 305 Seventh Avenue
 5th Floor
 New York, NY 10001

STAFF SUPPORT

Applicants who need assistance with the application process are encouraged to schedule a telephone meeting with CMA staff. Contact: Marc Giosi, Conference & Events Manager, (212) 242-2022, ext. 14, mgiosi@chamber-music.org.

CMA MEMBERSHIP

For information about joining CMA or to inquire about your current membership, please contact Adam Reifsteck, Membership Manager, (212) 242-2022 x 28 areifsteck@chamber-music.org, or visit <http://www.chamber-music.org/membership/join.html>.

CHAMBER MUSIC AMERICA, the national service organization for the ensemble music profession, was founded in 1977 to develop and strengthen an evolving chamber music community. With a membership of over 6,000, including musicians, ensembles, presenters, artists' managers, educators, music businesses, and advocates of ensemble music, CMA welcomes members representing a wide range of musical styles and traditions. In addition to its conference and showcase opportunities, CMA provides its members with grant programs, consulting services, access to health and instrument insurance, seminars and several publications, including *Chamber Music* magazine, and a website, www.chamber-music.org.