OVERVIEW
Chamber Music America will produce a CMA-member ensemble showcase on September 1, during the 2010 Western Arts Alliance Conference in Long Beach, CA.

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

There is no application fee, but only Ensemble-level members of CMA are eligible to apply.

An independent panel of presenters will select the showcase ensembles. If selected, ensembles must pay a $250 showcasing fee, due by July 16. CMA provides a piano, drum kit, bass amp, music stands, and chairs. The ensemble must provide all other necessary equipment.

A. ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE
Your ensemble is eligible if it:
• has performed as a professional ensemble for at least one year
• has given at least five public performances within the past year
• has 2–10 members (soloists with accompanists are not eligible)
• has an ongoing, stable core of musicians
• has no overdue reports or financial obligations to CMA
• is an Ensemble-level member of CMA (ensembles with management may not apply under their manager’s business membership)

B. ABOUT THE WRITTEN APPLICATION
Ensembles must propose a 20-minute showcase program. It may consist of a single work, several pieces, or movements from larger compositions.

The ensemble will also be asked to:
• 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 (concert programs, brochures, press releases, or other relevant materials)
• discuss specific works, programs, or special projects that the group plans to undertake within the next two years
• provide a press kit
• provide a stage plot and technical requirements

C. ABOUT THE CD WORK SAMPLE

The CD work sample, which will be listened to by the panelists, should demonstrate the highest quality of your ensemble’s performance and, if applicable, compositional and improvisational abilities.

Your work sample:
• may be no more than 20 minutes, and may include up to three 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 to 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 your CD work sample
• must be in CD-R format only

Four copies of the CD work sample are required.

Copy 1: Please provide the following information on the CD 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
• whether electronics or special tunings are used
Copies 2, 3, and 4: please provide the following information on the CD and insert:

- type of ensemble (string quartet, jazz trio)

  Do not list the ensemble’s name or its personnel; these CDs are distributed to the panelists for anonymous listening.

For each track, indicate:

- track number
- track length
- title of composition
- composer (if the composer is a member of the ensemble, please list “ensemble member” without identifying him/her by name)
- instrumentation
- date recorded
- 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, and press releases
- schedule and administer the showcases
- print a showcase program

Ensembles chosen to showcase will be responsible for:

- a $250 showcase fee to be paid to CMA by July 16, 2010
- all travel and accommodation expenses for the ensemble
- instrument and equipment rentals other than what CMA provides
- providing publicity information to CMA
- networking with showcase attendees before and after the performance
- 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. CMA staff and board members are not permitted to serve on panels.

The panel process has two rounds:

Round 1: Work Sample

In a “blind” review (the ensemble and its members are not identified), the panel evaluates the ensemble’s CD work sample based on:

- overall artistry
- ensemble cohesiveness
- sound
- the ensemble’s compositional ability (if applicable)
Round 2: Written Materials
The written materials of ensembles receiving high scores in Round 1 are evaluated, based on the quality of:

- the written application (adequate information about the ensemble, its performance and touring history, future programming)
- the press kit (adequate information about the ensemble, examples of concert programs, reviews, printed promotional materials)

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)
- Four copies of the CD Work Sample
- One piece of documentation for each of the five concerts listed in the application (See instructions above.)
- Four press kits (include ensemble bio, reviews, concert programs, and/or other publicity materials)
- Technical rider and stage plot

The application must:

- be typed (not hand-written) and submitted in hard copy
- be packaged in a single envelope
- arrive at CMA’s offices in its entirety on or before Friday, June 11, 2010.

No late, incomplete, hand-written, faxed, or emailed applications will be accepted.

MAIL/DELIVER APPLICATION TO:
Chamber Music America
2010 WAA 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, (212) 242-2022, ext. 14, mgiosi@chamber-music.org.

CMA MEMBERSHIP
For information about joining CMA or to inquire about your current membership status, please contact Adam Reifsteck, Membership Manager, (212) 242-2022 ext. 28 areifsteck@chamber-music.org, or visit 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.