Who may apply to the Ensemble Forward Program?
Ensembles of 2-10 musicians that perform Western European classical and contemporary chamber music based in the five boroughs of New York City and in the early stages of a career are eligible. In general, musicians will be in their mid- to late-20s.

What does the program fund?
Ensemble Forward funds four sessions with a chamber music coach. The program provides the coach $500 per session with the ensemble and each ensemble musician receives $200 per coaching.

What are the other components of the program?
CMA will provide grantees with complimentary attendance at CMA’s 2020 national conference in New York City, an additional skill-building seminar, career consulting sessions, networking opportunities and a complimentary one-year membership to CMA.

When must Ensemble Forward activity take place?
Grant activities must take place between November 2019 and May 31, 2020.

Is there a residence requirement?
Yes, the ensemble must be based in the five boroughs of New York City. Both the ensemble leader and coach must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

We do not have a chamber music coach. How can we find one?
CMA staff can provide names and contact information for potential coaches.

Who receives the payment if we are awarded a grant?
Ensemble Forward grant funds are disbursed to the ensemble leader, who is responsible for distributing the funds to the other ensemble musicians and the coach.

Are grant funds taxable?
Yes, the ensemble leader is responsible for filing the appropriate tax forms.

Do the musicians recorded on the ensemble audio sample have to be exactly the same as those in the application?
Either the full ensemble or a majority of the musicians must be heard in the audio sample.

What file formats are accepted for the audio uploads?
Acceptable audio formats are mp3 and m4a.

May I revise my application once I have clicked “submit” and received a CMA confirmation email?
No, once you “submit” your application, your application is locked.

When will we be notified of the grant panel’s decision to fund our project?
Grantees will be notified in October 2019.
Do we need to become a CMA Ensemble-level member to apply to this program? 
No, CMA membership is not required but, if selected, the ensemble will receive a complimentary one-year membership.

We are seeking funds to start a new concert series. Will this program fund start-ups? 
No, Ensemble Forward is intended to help ensembles find their distinctive sound by working with a coach, and to take part in career-building activities that will help them to navigate an increasingly competitive cultural landscape.

What are the career workshops? 
Career workshops will be led by industry experts and will feature topics such as marketing, grant writing, and time management. Geared to young music professionals, these will take place during the CMA National Conference and in Spring 2020.

What are the networking opportunities? 
Grantees will be invited to attend special gatherings during the CMA National Conference and in conjunction with the Spring 2020 workshop.

SUPPORT
Program: Susan Dadian, (212) 242-2022, x102
Technical: Submittable Help Center