

Chamber Music America

2020 GUIDELINES PERFORMANCE PLUS

Deadline: August 23, 2019, 9:00 PM ET

Grant Notification: October 2019

Grant Period: January 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

A component of the Doris Duke Jazz Ensembles Project, Performance Plus is funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Chamber Music America's *Performance Plus* program provides grants to U.S. based female-led jazz ensembles to engage an experienced jazz artist-educator for six evaluative listening sessions with the goal of enhancing the ensemble's performance. The listening sessions will culminate in a recording session resulting in a high-quality demo for use by the grantee ensemble.

The Board of Directors of Chamber Music America has made diversity, inclusion, and equity a primary focus of the organization's work. CMA's goal in this program is, through the panel review process, to arrive at a final slate of grantees that is representative of the field in terms of race and style of jazz. Read CMA's [Statement of Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity](#).

ELIGIBILITY

Only ensembles may apply to this program.

An ensemble is eligible if it

- is a professional female-led jazz ensemble;
- is based in the U.S. or its territories, consists of 2–10 musicians; and the leader is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;
- includes improvisation as an integral part of composition and performance;
- is a CMA Organization-level member;
- has no overdue reports or financial obligations to CMA.

THE ENSEMBLE LEADER

The ensemble leader must be a female-identifying professional jazz musician with a core ensemble consisting of 2-10 musicians. While there is no age restriction, applicants cannot have previously received major awards, commissions, prizes, or other types of national recognition.

THE ARTIST-EDUCATOR

The artist-educator must be an accomplished jazz bandleader with demonstrated experience in performance, recording, composing, arranging, and instruction. S/he must be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.

CMA has compiled a [database](#) of jazz artists who have expressed an interest in partnering with applicants to this program, and are recognized in the field for their creative practice and service as educators. Applicants may contact one of these artists or may apply with an artist-educator of their choice.

GRANT COMPONENTS & FUNDING

A *Performance Plus* grant is made up of four components:

1. Ensemble Rehearsal/Listening Sessions

Funding includes a rehearsal fee of \$200 per musician per listening session for six sessions with the artist-educator. The total number of musicians including the ensemble leader may not exceed 10. All core ensemble members must participate in all six listening sessions. Sessions must be completed by January 31, 2021.

2. Artist-Educator Fees

Funding (\$3,000) includes a fee of \$500 for the artist-educator for a minimum of 90 minutes of instruction per each of the six sessions.

3. Demo Recording

Funding (\$6,500) must be used for the purpose of recording a demo of only the works rehearsed in sessions with the artist-educator. Demo recording must be completed by June 30, 2021.

4. CMA National Conference

Grant includes a complimentary registration for the ensemble leader to attend one CMA National Conference. Travel/hotel subsidies are available, on a limited basis, for ensemble leaders who live outside the New York metropolitan area. Must be used for the 2020 or 2021 conferences held in New York City in January of each year.

GRANT AWARD AND PAYMENT

CMA contracts with the Grantee Ensemble Leader or her business entity on behalf of her ensemble. The Grantee Ensemble Leader must provide government-required documentation showing her U.S. citizenship or Permanent Resident status. Grant funds are taxable income; grantees must comply with all applicable city, state, and federal laws, ordinances, codes, and regulations affecting the project. The grantee is solely responsible for management of the project and disbursement and reporting of grant income.

PANEL REVIEW PROCESS

Performance Plus applications are reviewed by an independent panel of professional jazz musicians; CMA staff and board do not participate in the deliberations ([Representative list of previous CMA panelists](#)).

Applications are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- reason(s) why the ensemble leader believes the listening sessions will benefit her ensemble;
- qualifications of the artist-educator that led to his/her selection;
- reason(s) why the artist-educator is a good match for the ensemble;
- project feasibility including, but not limited to: established timeline, consistent intervals between sessions, and realistic geographic parameters (location of ensemble members relative to location of artist-educator);
- ensemble audio samples are evaluated for artistic and technical strength, and cohesiveness of the ensemble in performing scored and improvised music. The audio summary document serves as a guide to listening.

THE APPLICATION General Instructions

CMA uses an online application through Submittable. Only online applications will be accepted. Go to <https://cma.submittable.com> to create a free Submittable account if you do not already have one.

- You may type directly into the online form or draft your responses in an offline document and cut/paste your information into the online application.

- To save the work you have done on your application, you must click **SAVE DRAFT** at the bottom of the form before exiting.
- You may return to your saved application to continue working on it by following the log-in instructions. Submittable maintains your draft for 21 days.
- CMA recommends that you also save your draft in an offline document as backup.
- The application will close promptly at the stated deadline of **9 PM ET on Friday, August 23**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications in advance of the deadline to avoid any last-minute complications.

Audio Summary Table

Within the Submittable application, please provide instrumentation, track length, and cue times on the Audio Summary Table to guide the panel's listening.

Uploads

Audio Uploads

Two audio samples are required with this application. The audio samples should demonstrate the ensemble's best playing. The panel generally listens to 2-3 minutes of an audio file. Audio samples must be uploaded to the online application. Acceptable file types are mp3 and m4a.

- Submit audio featuring small ensemble music (2-10 musicians), with up to 5 minutes of a single work on each file.
- Each audio file may be edited and/or excerpted.
- Your submission may feature music from a live concert, studio/home recording, and/or commercial disc.
- Audio samples must each feature Work performed by the core ensemble or majority of its members.

Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a statement of intent between the ensemble and proposed artist-educator, and includes intended session date(s)/time(s)/meeting location. A sample letter is provided at the end of these guidelines.

To submit an application

- Go to <https://cma.submittable.com> and click on "CMA Performance Plus."
- Complete all required fields, including text boxes, and the Funding Request and Audio Summary tables.
- Prepare your audio samples and MOU attachments
- Save audio files as indicated below:

Applicant Ensemble Name-Audio # (e.g. *XYZ Ensemble-Audio 1*); acceptable file types: mp3, m4a.
- Upload attachments to application.
- When complete, sign and date the application.
- Click "Submit" to send application to CMA; you will receive a confirmation email.

OTHER INFORMATION

[FAQS](#) | [APPLICATION](#) | [APPLICATION WORKSHOP SCHEDULE](#)

SUPPORT

Program: [Gargi Shindé](#), (212) 242-2022, x103

Membership: [Geysa Castro](#) (212) 242-2022, x114

Technical: [Submittable Help Center](#)

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CHAMBER MUSIC AMERICA, the national network of ensemble music professionals, was founded in 1977 to develop, strengthen, and support the chamber music community. With a membership of nearly 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 funding programs, CMA provides its members with consulting services, access to instrument and other insurances, conferences, seminars, and several publications including *Chamber Music* magazine and the weekly e-newsletter, *Accent*. www.chamber-music.org

The mission of the **DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. www.ddcf.org

SAMPLE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ENSEMBLE LEADER AND ARTIST-EDUCATOR

[Date]
 [Name and Title]
 [Ensemble Name]
 [Street Address] [City/State/Zip]

Dear Chamber Music America:

This letter confirms that [Ensemble Name] intends to partner with [Artist-Educator] for six listening sessions, pending funding from Chamber Music America's *Performance Plus* grant program in accordance with, but not limited to, the following:

- [date range]
- [meeting place] in [city, state]
- with artist-educator fee of \$3,000 (\$500/session) for a minimum of 90 minutes per session.

Ensemble Leader (Print):	
Signature:	Date:
Artist-Educator (Print)	
Signature:	Date:

It is agreed that the ensemble will feature the following core musicians and instrumentation (please provide a complete list below)