

Chamber Music America

2021 CLASSICAL COMMISSIONING PROGRAM FAQS

Who may apply to this program?

U.S.-based ensembles and U.S.-based not-for-profit presenters are eligible to apply.

May composers submit an application?

No, only ensembles, or presenters working with ensembles, may apply.

Does the ensemble have to be based in the U.S.?

Yes, the ensemble must be based in the U.S. or its territories, and the composer must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

Is non-profit status required?

Non-profit status is required of presenter applicants but not of ensembles.

Is CMA membership required?

An ensemble applicant must be a CMA member at the Organization level. Presenter applicants must have Organization-level membership, as well as the ensemble with which they are applying. CMA membership is not required of the composer. CMA is currently offering [Pay-What-You-Can](#) memberships in recognition that many have been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are not very familiar with the work of women, gender non-conforming or ALAANA composers. Where can we learn more about them?

CMA has compiled a database of ALAANA, women, and gender non-conforming composers who have expressed interest in creating new work for classical/contemporary chamber ensembles. The [Composers Equity Project](#) database can be found on CMA's website.

Does one need to apply with a composer listed in the Composer Equity Project database?

No, it is not required; it is available as a research tool.

We are a composer collective that also performs. May we apply to co-compose a new work?

No, CMA will only consider applications designating one individual as the composer.

The composer has already composed the work and seeks funds to pay for the piece. Is this eligible?

No, CMA requires the composition of an entirely new piece.

We currently have a CMA *Classical Commissioning Program* grant. May we apply for the 2021 grant cycle?

You must complete your current project and then wait one full grant cycle after submitting the final report before re-applying.

We now have funding in another CMA program; may we apply to *Classical Commissioning* as well?

If you have an open *New Jazz Works* grant, you may not apply to *Classical Commissioning*. However, current *Ensemble Forward* or *Presenter Consortium for Jazz* grantees are welcome to apply, as long as they are CMA members in good standing.

What is the composer's deadline for completing the commission?

The new piece must be complete and the score submitted to CMA in digital copy by September 30, 2022.

When and where must the concerts take place?

A minimum of three public performances of the work for a live concert audience must take place by June 2024. CMA requires booking confirmation of the premiere by February 1, 2023.

For the composer's audio files, may we upload selections from commercially released CDs?

Yes, selections from commercially released CDs are eligible.

May ensembles also include selections from commercially released CDs?

At least one of the ensemble's audio files must be from a live concert recording. The other selection may be from a commercially released CD.

Are scores accepted with the audio files?

No, CMA does not require scores with the audio files and does not conduct its adjudication with scores.

We are a large ensemble with variable instrumentation. What should we provide on our work sample?

The recording may include varying configurations of the collective or roster, but a majority of the musicians (greater than 50 percent) who will perform the proposed commission must appear on each audio file. The ensemble size of each sample may not exceed 10 musicians.

Must the composer's audio files be chamber music only?

CMA prefers works for small ensembles, so that the panel may hear how the composer writes for this form. However, if the composer has no recordings of small ensemble writing, other types of works are accepted.

Who receives payments if we are awarded a grant?

If an ensemble is without non-profit status, the group must designate one person who will manage the grant and receive payments. If a presenter or an ensemble has non-profit status, the payments are made to the organization.

Are grant funds taxable?

Yes, the designated contact person who manages the grant is responsible for filing appropriate tax forms.

Does CMA staff make the decisions about who receives funding?

No, an independent peer-review panel—musicians, composers and presenters with broad experience in new music—reviews the applications. [Representative list of recent panelists](#).

On Submittable, what is the difference between the "Save Draft" and "Submit"?

- Use "Save Draft" to save your work in the online form and return to it at another time. Submittable keeps your latest draft for 21 days. If you return to work on the draft on Day 22, you will no longer have access to that file and Submittable will not be able to retrieve it for you.
- Click "Submit" once you have answered all application questions and uploaded all required documents. You must submit on or before the deadline.

May I revise my application once I clicked "submit" and have received a CMA confirmation email?

No, once you "submit" your application, your application is locked.

Will I receive notification confirming receipt of my application?

Yes, you will receive an email confirming receipt of your application.

What is the next step after submission?

CMA reviews the applications and contacts applicants with any questions or concerns regarding the application.

When will I know the status of my request?

Applicants will be notified in June 2021.

Whom may I contact if I have any other questions?

Contact [Susan Dadian](#), program director, CMA Classical/Contemporary, at (212) 242-2022, ext. 102.

Click here for [Guidelines](#).