

Chamber Music America

ENSEMBLE FORWARD PROGRAM 2022 GUIDELINES

Deadline: October 8, 2021, 9:00 PM ET

Grant Notification: December 2021

Grant Period: January 1 - December 31, 2022

This program is supported by The New York Community Trust.

Chamber Music America's *Ensemble Forward* program is an initiative for emerging ensembles that perform Western European classical and contemporary chamber music and are based in the five boroughs of New York City. The goals of this program are to support ensembles at a crucial time in their career development and to help them navigate an increasingly demanding cultural landscape.

CMA will provide grant funds for ensembles to work with an established chamber music coach to help them develop their distinctive ensemble sound; make information resources available for building their careers; and create networking opportunities for ensemble musicians to meet each other, as well as composers and presenters, further enlarging their professional circles.

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 gender. Read about CMA's [Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity](#).

ELIGIBILITY

An ensemble is eligible if:

- It consists of 2-10 musicians;
- It is based in one of the five boroughs of New York City;
- A minimum of one member of the Ensemble is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;
- It performs Western European classical and/or contemporary music.

The ensemble:

- Members may be recent conservatory, college, or community college graduates or have reached a high level of performance through other music instruction;
- May include a member that is on track to graduate before December 2022, however, student ensembles are not eligible;
- Must be no more than five years into its professional career.

THE COACH

Applicants to the program must apply with an ensemble coach, an experienced artist-educator from the classical and/or contemporary field. Applicants may consult with CMA staff to help identify a coach for their ensemble or engage a coach of their choice. The coach must be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.

GRANT COMPONENTS & FUNDING

An *Ensemble Forward* grant is made up of the following components:

1. Ensemble Coaching Sessions

A fee of \$200 per ensemble musician for each of five sessions with the Coach. Sessions must be completed by December 31, 2022.

2. Coach's Fee

A fee of \$500 for the Coach for each of five sessions with the Ensemble. Sessions must be a minimum of 90 minutes.

3. CMA National Conference

Complimentary registration for the complete ensemble to attend the 2022 CMA National Conference, January 6-9, 2022.

4. Skill-Building Workshops

Workshops for grantee ensembles, led by industry professionals, offering relevant career development expertise.

5. Consultations with CMA Staff

Check-ins with CMA staff on the group's progress throughout the grant cycle.

6. CMA Membership

The grant offers a one-year complimentary CMA Ensemble-level membership.

GRANT AWARD AND PAYMENT

Payments will be made after scheduling and documentation has been submitted to CMA by the grantee for each coaching session as follows: \$500 coach's fee and \$200 for each ensemble member, paid to the administrative leader of the Ensemble, who is responsible for management of the grant and disbursement and reporting of grant funds.

Administrative leader of the Ensemble and coaches must provide government issued documentation as proof of their 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 regarding the reporting of grant funds.

PANEL REVIEW PROCESS

Ensemble Forward applications are reviewed by an independent panel of professional chamber 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 believes the coaching sessions will be beneficial to its career development and in defining its collective sound
- the ensemble's proposed repertoire for their coaching sessions and the reason(s) for the choice;
- reason(s) for choosing a particular coach and their plan for working with them;
- Listening: potential for artistic growth based on the ensemble's audio samples.

THE APPLICATION

CMA uses the online application platform Submittable. Go to cma.submittable.com to create a free Submittable account if you do not already have one.

- Complete the online form directly or draft your responses in an offline document such as Word, Pages or Google Docs as backup, then 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.
- CMA recommends that you also save your draft in an offline document such as Word, Pages or Google Docs as backup.
- The application will close promptly at the stated deadline of **9:00 PM ET on Friday, October 8, 2021**. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline to avoid any last-minute complications.

Uploads

Audio Uploads

Two ensemble audio samples are required and must be uploaded to the online application. The samples should be up to 5 minutes each and feature works for small ensemble (2-10 musicians). They should demonstrate the ensemble's performance level and must feature either the full ensemble or the majority of its musicians (more than half of the group's members). Include contrasting works, if possible. Soloistic works are not recommended.

Only mp3 and/or m4a file types are accepted. The samples do not need to be of studio quality but should be clear and representative of the ensemble's performance within the last two years.

Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ensemble and the proposed coach must be uploaded to the application. A sample letter is provided in the application.

To submit an application

- Go to cma.submittable.com and click on "Ensemble Forward."
- Complete all required fields, including text boxes, the Funding Request, and Audio Sample information.
- Prepare your audio samples and MOU attachment.
- Save audio files as: Ensemble Name-Audio 1 and Ensemble Name-Audio 2; acceptable file types: mp3, m4a.
- Upload the audio files and MOU to the application.
- When complete, sign and date your 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](mailto:gshinde@chamber-music.org), gshinde@chamber-music.org

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.

A public charity, The New York Community Trust connects past, present, and future generous New Yorkers with vital nonprofits working to make a healthy, equitable, and thriving community for all. It is a public grantmaking foundation dedicated to improving the lives of residents of New York City, Westchester, and Long Island.