Who can apply to the Performance Plus Program?

Performance Plus was established to address specific gender-based inequity and exclusion in the field of jazz composition and practice. Bandleaders of professional U.S. jazz ensemble, consisting of 2-10 musicians, who identify as gender minorities or women may submit one application. For terms used in the application regarding the LGBTQIA+ community, please see a glossary of terms prepared by PFLAG.

What is an artist-educator?

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

I'm seeking funds to cover recording costs for a new release. Is the Performance Plus Program a good fit?

No. Performance Plus offers support only for a demo recording of the work that has been rehearsed at the listening sessions with the artist-educator.

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

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

We currently have funding through another CMA program; may we apply to Performance Plus?

If you are currently funded through CMA's commissioning programs (Classical Commissioning or New Jazz Works), you may not apply to Performance Plus. If you have a current Digital Residency grant or are the ensemble in a Presenter Consortium for Jazz grant, you are welcome to apply to Performance Plus.

We are a newly formed ensemble, and do not have any high-quality audio samples, can we apply?

Audio samples are required to apply. You can feature music from a live concert, studio/home recording, and/or a commercial release.

Do the musicians recorded on Ensemble Audio Samples 1 and 2 have to be exactly the same as those in the application?

Each of the two audio samples should feature all ensemble members listed on the Performance Plus program application. If that is not possible, then each sample should feature a majority of the members listed in the application.
Does our ensemble need fiscal sponsorship or be registered as a non-profit to apply?
Non-profit status/fiscal sponsorship is not required for Ensembles to apply.

Who receives the payment if we are awarded a grant?
*Performance Plus* grant funds are disbursed to the bandleader, unless the ensemble has established itself as an IRS nonprofit organization or another business entity, in which case grant payments are made to the organization/business. The leader is responsible for distributing the funds to the other ensemble musicians and artist-educator, as well as expenses associated with the demo recording, collecting payment receipts and/invoices, and filing a final report upon the completion of grant activities.

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

APPLICATION INFORMATION
GUIDELINES | APPLICATION | APPLICATION WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

APPLICATION SUPPORT
Gargi Shindé, Director of Grant Programs | gshinde@chamber-music.org
Jordyn Davis, Grant Programs Associate | jdavis@chamber-music.org
Technical: Submittable Help Center