

Chamber Music America

www.chamber-music.org

CMA Survey Summary

The Impact of COVID-19 on the Small
Ensemble Music Field
as of June 5, 2020

[View the Summary of CMA's First COVID-19 Impact Survey.
\(results as of April 1, 2020\).](#)

This report has been published in partnership with the Wallace Foundation's ["Building Audiences for the Arts"](#) initiative.

Introduction

Although it has only been four months since the World Health Organization categorized COVID-19 as a pandemic, the chamber music field as well as the entire performing arts industry has been catapulted into a new dimension, with which we are still becoming acquainted.

In March, Chamber Music America asked our constituents how their work and incomes had been affected by these sudden changes. We reported [the survey results](#) in April. Realizing that the pandemic's effects would be farther-reaching and longer-lasting than originally anticipated, we distributed a second survey in May.

This survey, which reached 8,610 individuals and closed June 1, had a 3.8% response rate. The following pages contain a summary of the survey's results with several comparisons to data from our first inquiry.

Among our findings:

- There has been a significant increase in lost income between April 1 responses and June 1 responses;
- Performance and other event cancellations have increased substantially;
- There is no clear understanding or indication of a timetable for the return of live events;
- Remote technology continues to be utilized extensively, yet many report they do not plan to utilize remote technology or they do not have the appropriate infrastructure in place;
- Access to funding sources varied across the various categories of respondents.

We invite you to peruse the data on the following pages, and we thank all those who responded for contributing to the collection of this important data.

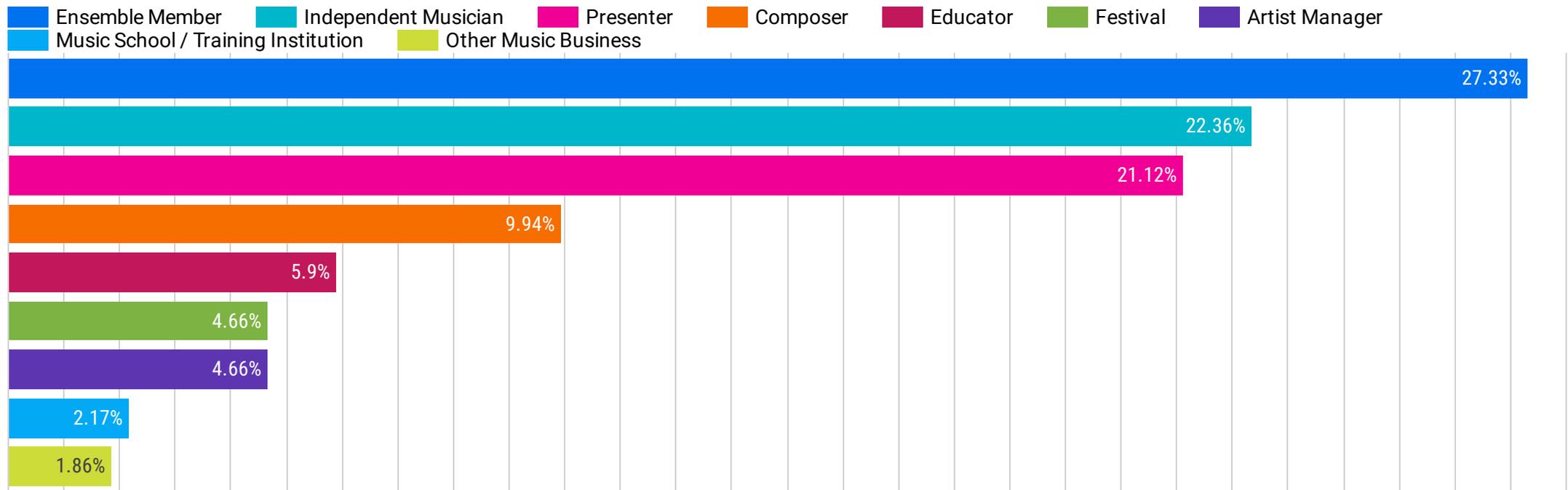


Margaret M. Lioi
Chief Executive Officer

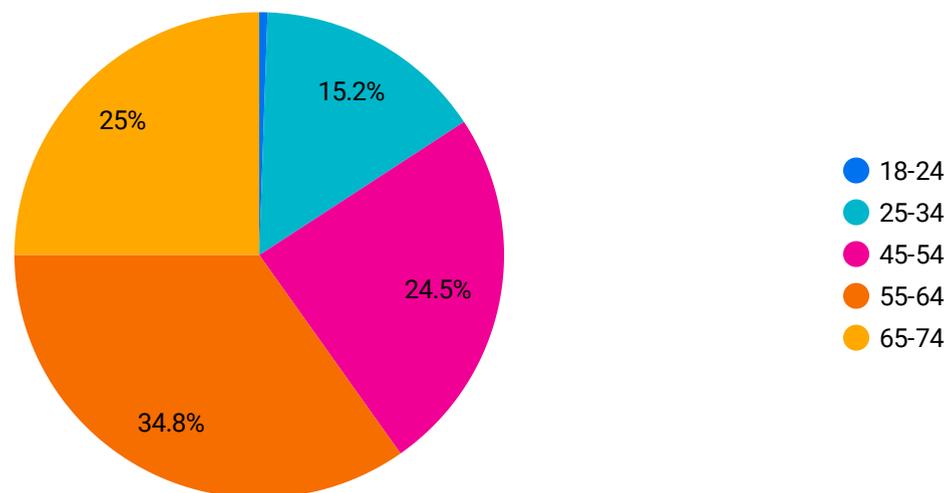
Survey Respondents

Responses received from 39 states and the District of Columbia.

Member Type

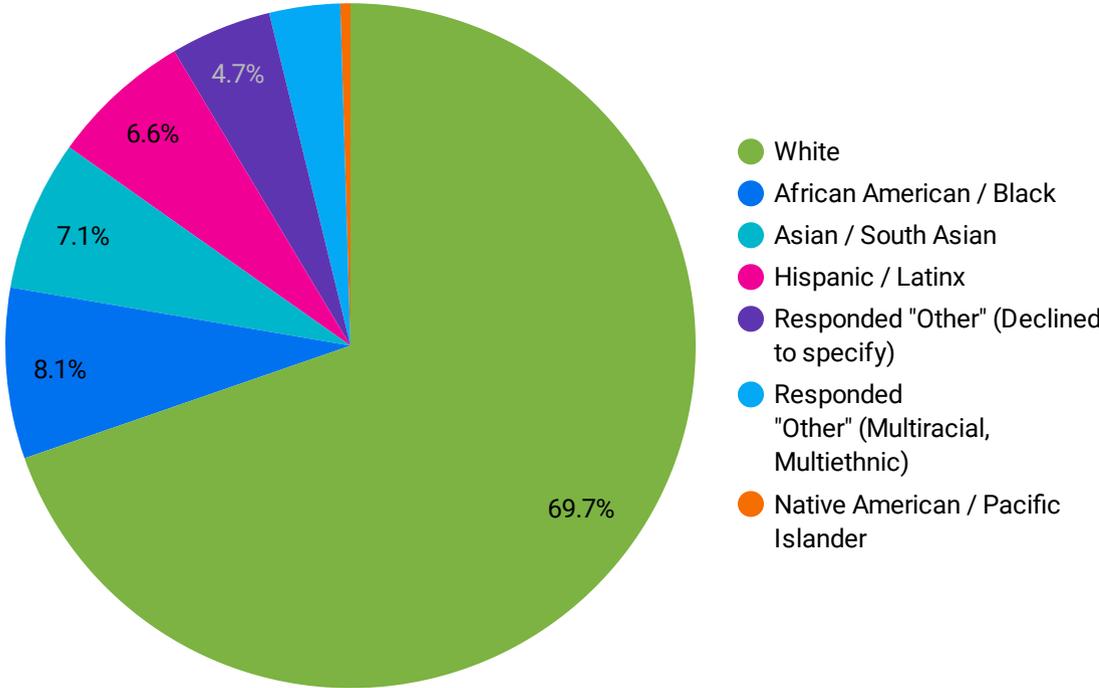


Age (percentage of all respondents)



Survey Respondents

In keeping with its [Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity](#), CMA seeks to understand the demographics of its membership and of the members who access its benefits and services. In this report summary CMA uses the terms ALAANA (African/Black, Latinx, Asian/South Asian, Arab/Middle Eastern, Native American) and White to identify race.



Only respondents who identified themselves as "Ensemble Members" or "Individuals" [Composers, Educators, & Independent Musicians] were asked questions about their race

Ensembles

64 White
22 ALAANA
5 multiracial

Individuals

83 White
33 ALAANA
2 multiracial
7 declined to specify

Income Loss as of June 5, 2020

Income Loss	Organizations	Ensembles	Artist Managers	Individuals
Under \$5,000	9.38%	30.68%	0%	26.02%
\$5,000 - \$9,999	14.58%	15.91%	6.67%	31.71%
\$10,000 - \$24,999	18.75%	22.73%	6.67%	22.76%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	5.21%	11.36%	33.33%	7.32%
\$50,000 - \$99,999	16.67%	13.64%	13.33%	4.06%
\$100,000 +	26.04%	3.41%	40%	3.25%
No Lost Income	9.38%	2.27%	0%	4.88%

- 33.3% of **Artist Managers** reported staff layoffs or furloughs
- 24% of **Organizations** reported staff layoffs or furloughs

Comparison with Previous Survey

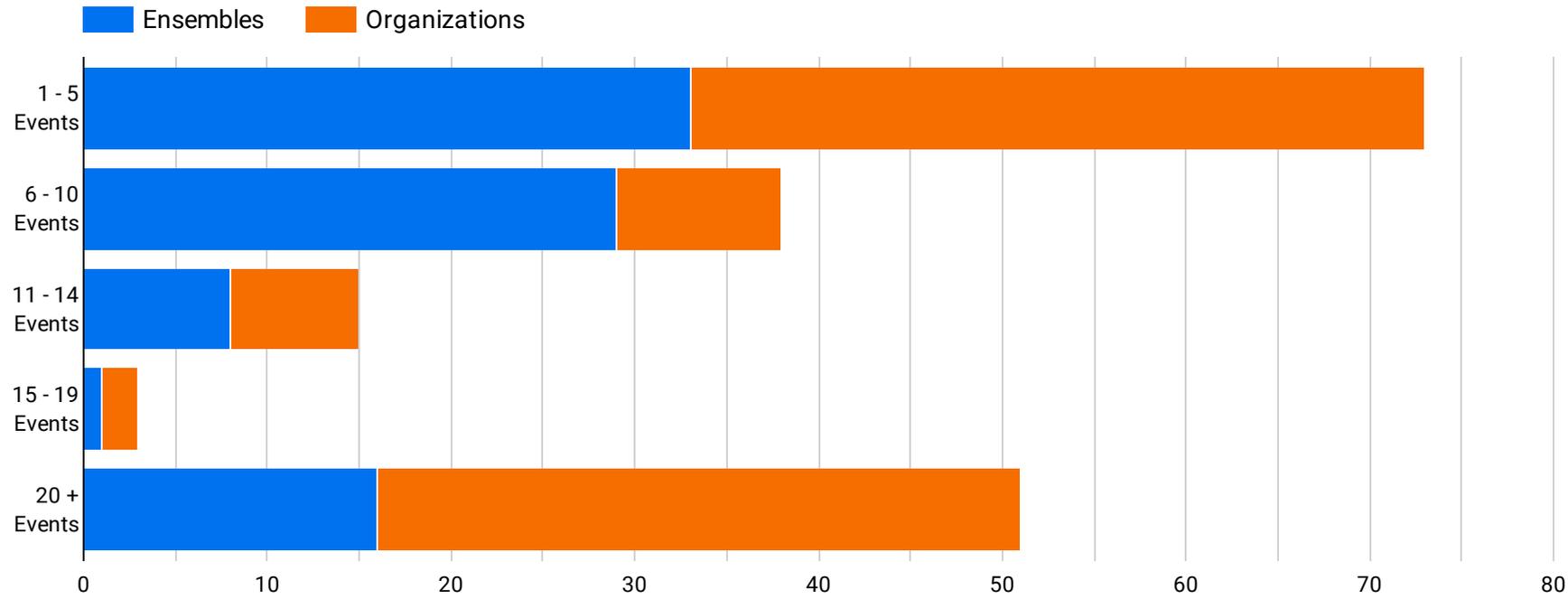
Income Loss	Organizations	Ensembles	Artist Managers
Under \$5,000	40.45%	27.03%	18.18%
\$5,000 - \$24,999	28.09%	43.24%	27.27%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	13.48%	16.22%	9.09%
\$50,000 - \$99,999	7.87%	9.46%	27.27%
\$100,000 +	10.11%	4.05%	18.18%

Income Loss Individuals	Individuals
Under \$499	9.16%
\$500 - \$999	13.36%
\$1,000 - \$2,499	22.14%
\$2,500 - \$4,999	22.52%
\$5,000 - \$9,999	19.47%
\$10,000 +	13.36%

Note: In the first survey, individuals were asked different questions from organizations regarding income loss.

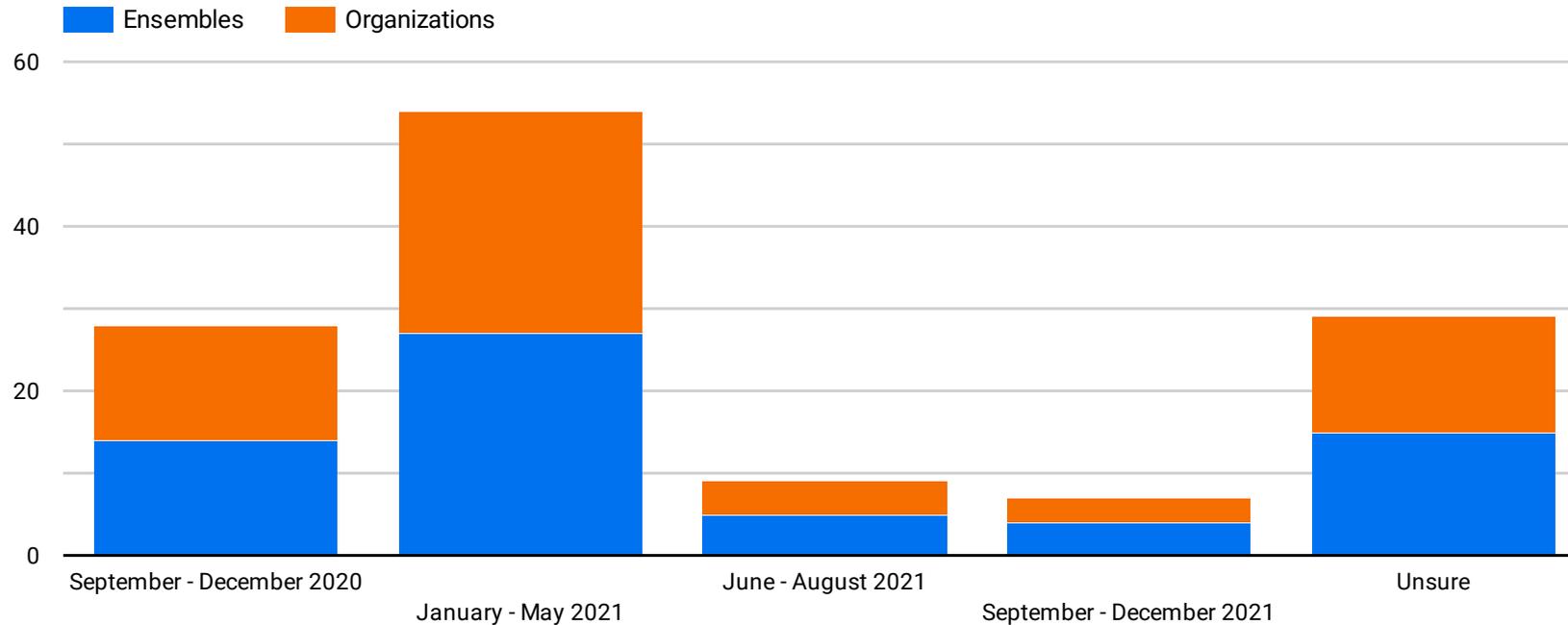
Event Cancellations

Only Ensembles and Organizations were asked questions about their events.



- 73.9% of **Ensembles** have canceled/plan to cancel, or experienced cancellations of in-person performances for the next concert season.
- 64.6% of **Organizations** canceled/plan to cancel or experienced cancellations of in-person performances for the next concert season.

Anticipated Return to In-Person Events



Use of Remote Technology

In each survey, respondents were asked about their experiences using remote technology to host events.

Remote activities include: private teaching, live concerts/performances, workshops/webinars/masterclasses, “virtual choirs,” interviews, streaming past performances, rehearsals, recording, adjudications, religious services, town halls/gatherings, galas, online fundraising events, and more

As of June 5

Have you used remote technology?	Ensembles	Artist Managers	Individuals	Organizations
Yes	82.95%	62.5%	75.61%	65.63%
No (no plans to use remote tech)	3.41%	18.75%	11.38%	15.63%
No (do not have the infrastructure)	13.64%	18.75%	13.01%	18.75%

Comparison with Previous Survey

Have you used remote technology?	Ensembles	Artist Managers	Individuals	Organizations
Yes	51.35%	36.36%	77.99%	40.45%
No (no plans to use remote tech)	20.27%	27.27%	10.82%	31.46%
No (do not have the infrastructure)	28.38%	36.36%	11.19%	28.09%

CARES Act Funding

On March 27, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, for businesses and individuals affected by COVID-19, was signed into law. The following table represents respondents' relationship to CARES Act funding.

Answer	Ensembles	Organizations	Individuals	Artist Managers
Not Eligible/Did Not Apply	62	41	69	4
Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) - Funded	21	40	10	7
Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) - Not Funded/Pending	0	2	5	3
Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) - Funded	4	9	3	6
Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) - Not Funded/Pending	1	7	5	2
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) - Pending	13	19	null	null
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) - Pending	null	6	null	null
State Agencies - Funded	3	9	5	1
State Agencies - Not Funded/Pending	7	15	7	null
Unemployment Assistance - Funded	null	null	22	null
Unemployment Assistance - Not Funded/Pending	null	null	15	null
Did Not Receive CARES Act Funding of Any Kind	4	5	18	0

Note: Categories marked "null" indicate that the selected group of respondents was not asked about, or is not eligible for, the program referenced.

Other Funding Sources

In addition to questions about CARES Act Funding, respondents were asked questions about their experiences applying for relief funding through non-governmental sources.

Answer	Ensembles	Organizations	Individuals	Artist Managers
Did Not Pursue Emergency Relief Funding	43	61	92	6
COVID-19 Relief Funds - Funded	10	13	15	3
COVID-19 Relief Funds - Not Funded/Pending	7	5	12	4
Corporate Funds - Funded	0	5	2	1
Corporate Funds - Not Funded/Pending	3	2	1	1
Private Foundations - Funded	16	17	3	null
Private Foundations - Not Funded/Pending	3	8	7	null
Used Crowdfunding	4	null	null	null
Yet to Receive Funding from Non-Government Sources	3	3	11	2

Notes:

- Categories marked "null" indicate that the selected group of respondents was not asked about, or is not eligible for, the type of funding referenced.
- 19 **Ensembles** pursued funding from other sources (converting programming funds to general operating, fundraising via social media and mailing lists, and individual donors)
- **Organizations** also reported receiving funding from individual donors.

What Organizations Shared

Artist Managers, Ensembles, Festivals, Music Businesses, Music Schools/Training Programs, & Presenters

"It is difficult to plan anything, without having any kind of knowledge of how long it will be before people feel comfortable traveling to play together and/or attend events together. Since much of our work is also tied to academic calendars, we also await each institution's policy going forward, and if that will include live or remote work, and navigate how/if we can make each situation work."

"For 2020/2021, we anticipate chamber venues being open to audiences of 10-50, depending on the social distancing capacity, with concerts livestreamed for the bulk of the audience."

"Funders administering these sorts of surveys are often looking at the immediate impact of Covid-19 on arts orgs, but for us, the impact will be sustained for at least 3 fiscal years, because we had to postpone some major projects by up to 2 years. These postponements will preclude us for seeking grants from almost all of our regular funders while projects remain open. Unless funders are flexible and allow proposals from orgs with open grants (given the extraordinary circumstances), we will be precluded from applying for more than \$300,000 of grants and our organizational budget will shrink by half from FY20 to FY 21 and FY22, crippling us financially. I hope that CMA (and other funders) will find a way to allow project proposals from organizations like ours that have open grants."

"The local advice we are receiving to let audience members decide for themselves whether they will risk infection by attending a concert in the fall reflects political attitudes. It is also discriminatory since older and African-American audience members face greater health risks from crowds."

"Many arts administrators and producers currently on furlough will not have jobs to go back to in the fall, or any time in the near future, because the volume of performances will not be the same as before the pandemic. Can we be retrained to do something else within our organizations that will be useful? What areas within the industry WILL need experience arts-industry professionals?"

"As a composer who hasn't taught for a living for the past 20 yrs, I had put together several part-time jobs in and outside the field of music to assemble a somewhat livable income, but with the onset of the pandemic, part-time workers became the first to lose their positions. Alas, I am grasping at straws now to just scrape by. It is always difficult to make it through the "off-season" summertime in South Florida, but this year we are going to really suffer in this area. I'm just trying to make it to the end of each successive month and trying not to panic."

What Individuals Shared

Composers, Educators, & Independent Musicians

"I have not received anything from any of the relief networks. I have been notified with 'Thank you for inquiring...'"

"I am most concerned about impact of COVID on music education and ensemble programs for young musicians, especially in underserved areas/ multi-racial communities. The impact of digital media on live music experiences has been very significant and not particularly friendly to acoustic or chamber type music forms. The COVID / social distancing may have exponentially increased the detriments that 'super public digital media' had already put in place Time for HEW & NEA to combine ideas - if not forces- to imagine and actually help elaborate multiple possibilities for MUSIC and our diverse cultural society to survive, continue informing, strengthening, identifying the coming generations."

"The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is obviously enormous for performing musicians, but is also conjunctively significant for composers who are losing sources of income from performance royalties, which can often be their largest sources of income, and who are frequently overlooked in the equations regarding the impact of the pandemic."

"I worry about the ability of performance venues/clubs to survive in NYC and around the US after this protracted shut down and in the coming year(s). If they fold, it might spell the end of jazz, which I've devoted my life to."

"I'm very concerned about the longterm impact of COVID-19. Many of my collaborators have lost their entire season's work. This will impact them terribly, and affect their ability to conclude commissioned projects I'm working on already, not to mention the future. Also, with the cancellation of performances, I've had multiple premieres and performances cancelled, and future income will be hit by this."

"This government only helps a select number of people, not me, an independent contractor musician, who is considered "not essential". Mine is the first type of business that got the axe and will be the last to re-enter the workforce. It feels to me like the government treats my livelihood as a hobby. The after school programs where I teach empower the kids through music and give them a voice. So, what place do the professional performers have for their voice? The teaching part of my employment sustains me very limitedly and I am suffering financially."

"Unemployment of musicians is devastating.....PUA has not dispersed to anyone in my professional circle, so relief has been absent. Soon, many artists will need to pursue other forms of employment."

Chamber Music America

For Emergency Relief Efforts and Other Resources Please Visit:

<https://www.chamber-music.org/resources/covid-19>