Chamber Music America will present 20-minute showcases by CMA member ensembles during its National Conference in New York City January 14-17, 2021. The showcases are an opportunity for ensembles to market themselves and their work to an audience of presenters, artist managers, educators, and other colleagues.

As of April 2020, CMA plans to proceed with its 2021 Annual National Conference. However, we recognize that the long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are unknown. If we are unable to proceed as planned due to lingering restrictions on travel or in-person gatherings, CMA will examine other options and make decisions based on the most current and available information.

In the meantime, we encourage you to apply.

ELIGIBILITY

An ensemble is eligible if it:

- has performed professionally as an ensemble for at least one year
- has an ongoing core of musicians (soloists with accompanists are not eligible)
- consists of 2-10 musicians
- is a current CMA organization-level member
  - Please Note: In response to the financial hardships brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, CMA organizational-level memberships are available at a Pay-What-You-Can rate from April 2020-March 2021.
- has no overdue reports or financial obligations to CMA

REVIEW PROCESS

An independent panel of musicians and presenters versed in multiple ensemble music styles (early music, jazz, Eastern and Western classical and contemporary) will review the audio samples to select the showcasing ensembles. CMA staff and board members do not serve on the panel.

The panel’s evaluation of the audio samples through “blind listening” determines ensembles selected to showcase. The panel evaluates the audio samples based on:

- Artistry
- Technical Facility
- Ensemble Cohesiveness
**AUDIO GUIDELINES**

Each applicant must submit audio samples that demonstrate the ensemble’s artistry, technical facility, and ensemble cohesiveness.

- Audio samples must be uploaded to the online application. Acceptable file types are mp3 and m4a.
- Up to 3 audio files are accepted totaling no more than 20 minutes of music.
- Works must have been recorded within the past three years.
- A minimum of 50% of the musicians on the sample must be the same as the musicians performing at the actual showcase.

**Audio Sample Content:**

- Choose selections that the ensemble plans to perform in the showcase, or music similar in style.
- Full-length works, excerpts from larger works, or individual movements may be included.
- Selections may feature music from a live performance, home/studio recording, or a commercial recording.
- Do not include pieces performed with guest artists who will not participate in the showcase performance.
- In the case of mixed ensembles with variable combinations, provide at least one sample that represents the same personnel and instrumentation you are proposing for the showcase.

**CHAMBER MUSIC AMERICA**

- administers and schedules all showcase performances and sound checks.
- provides a grand piano, harpsichord, guitar amp, bass amp, drum set, music stands, chairs, PA system, microphones, and audio engineer.
- produces a printed showcase program.
- publicizes the showcase performances through its website, e-newsletter, social media, and conference materials.

**SHOWCASE ENSEMBLES**

- pay a $500 showcasing fee, which includes conference registration for each performing ensemble member.
- are responsible for any necessary equipment not provided by CMA.
- are responsible for their travel and accommodation expenses.
- are responsible for any additional conference advertising, promotion, or exhibit tables they may wish to purchase.

**SUPPORT**

CMA: [conference@chamber-music.org](mailto:conference@chamber-music.org)
Technical: [Submittable](https://www.submittable.com)