

Chamber **Music** America

2019 Classical Commissioning Program

Application Deadline: April 5, 2019

9:00 PM, E.T.

Notification: July 2019

*Grants made through this program are funded through the generosity of
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.*

Program support

Chamber Music America's *Classical Commissioning Program* provides grants to professional U.S.-based presenters and ensembles whose programming includes Western European and/or non-Western classical and contemporary music.

Grants are provided for the commissioning and performance of new works by American composers. The program supports works scored for 2–10 musicians performing one per part, composed in any of the musical styles associated with contemporary classical music.

Statement of Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

CMA's Board of Directors has made diversity, inclusion, and equity a primary focus of the organization's work and has adopted the acronym ALAANA (African/Black, Latinx, Asian/South Asian, Arab/Middle Eastern, and Native American) for use in its equity focus.

Statement of Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion and Equity, cont'd.

Read CMA's Statement of Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion and Equity, which can be found on the CMA website at the following address:

<https://www.chamber-music.org/statement-commitment>

Women and ALAANA Composers

Women and ALAANA composers have historically been under-represented in the *Classical Commissioning* program.

Given its commitment to equitable grant making, CMA's goal is to award a majority of the grants to ensembles and presenters who apply with women or ALAANA composers.

Composers Equity Project

CMA has created its *Composers Equity Project*, a database of ALAANA, women, and gender non-conforming composers who have expressed interest in creating new work for classical/ contemporary chamber ensembles:

<https://www.chamber-music.org/programs/classical/grants#l408>

Applicant eligibility

- Must be based in the U.S. or its territories
- Must be a professional ensemble (amateur or student groups are not eligible) that has either non-profit status or the leader/primary member is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Or, must be a non-profit presenting organization, partnering with a professional ensemble

All applicants must

- Be a CMA member at the Organization level
- Have no overdue reports or financial obligations to CMA
- If a previous grantee, wait a full grant cycle after completing any previous CMA commissioning project before re-applying

Ensemble eligibility

- Ensembles may appear on only one application in either CMA commissioning *program—Classical Commissioning or New Jazz Works*
- Must consist of 2-10 professional musicians
- May consist of "fixed" personnel and instrumentation
- May be part of a flexible roster or collective that performs in varying configurations of no more than 10
- If a duo, must perform as equal partners, rather than as soloist and accompanist, and consistently publicize itself as a duo

Presenter eligibility

- A presenter may submit only one application
- Must present classical, contemporary, other music genres, and/or multi-disciplinary performing arts programs

The Composer

- is an individual (not a group)
- must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- may be a member of the applicant's ensemble or a guest artist
- may not appear on more than one application to a CMA commissioning program—including *New Jazz Works*—for the period beginning July 1, 2019
- may not have outstanding commitments to either CMA commissioning program
- does not need to be a CMA member

Classical Commissioning is a three-year grant

CMA provides grantees three years to complete a *Classical Commissioning* project, including:

- Creation of the new work
- A minimum of three performances in the U.S.

The grant period is July 1, 2019-June 30, 2022

The commissioned work

- a new piece of concert music
- must be written for a small ensemble, 2 to 10 musicians, one musician per part
- must be in the form of a notated score
- must be performed in public at least three times in the U.S. or its territories by June 30, 2022 by the grantee, or if a presenter grantee, by the partner ensemble

The commission may not

- be a previously written piece or work in progress
- be an arrangement of previously written works
- be music for dramatic works (staged or unstaged), chamber opera, or incidental music for other media
- soloistic works, such as concertos
- include fees for non-musician participants

Grant funds are designated for

- Composer commissioning fees: ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000, depending upon instrumentation and length of the work, based on CMA's funding scale (listed in the program guidelines)
- Ensemble honoraria: \$1,000 per ensemble musician and guest artist[s]
- Copying reimbursement: Up to \$1,000

For example, if you are or apply with a quartet

Your grant = \$15,000

- \$10,000 composer fee for a 12-minute work
- \$4,000 ensemble fee
- \$1,000 copying reimbursement

Audio basics

- Submit one piece of music per file
- Edit and/or excerpt music within a file
- Edit each file to no longer than 5 minutes in length
- Feature music from live concert, studio/home recording, and/or commercial disc
- Format files as mp3 or m4a

Composer audio

- Submit two files, up to 5 minutes in length
- May be files from commercially released recordings
- Contrasting works of chamber music are recommended
- Must include at least one work from the past 25 years

Ensemble audio

- Submit two files
- Each file must feature all ensemble members for a group of fixed instrumentation OR a majority of the core ensemble listed in Step 2 of the application
- Contrasting works are recommended
- At least one work written in the last 25 years

Ensemble audio, cont'd.

- At least one unedited track from a live concert performance; remaining file may be re-recorded from a commercially released or studio recording
- If the ensemble is of fixed instrumentation and personnel (such as a string quartet) and has had a personnel change, the Ensemble's audio files must feature a majority (greater than 50 percent) of the current members

Guest artist audio

- Submit one audio file for each guest artist (if applicable)
- May be re-recorded tracks from a commercially released studio recording

The written application

- Provide the history of the applicant (either ensemble or presenting organization) and its history of performing or presenting new music
- If a presenter applicant, give information about the ensemble
- Provide background about the composer

The written application, cont'd.

- Title of proposed work, if known
- Proposed length
- Number of musicians
- List musicians and instrumentation of the ensemble that will perform the commissioned work

To apply

- Only online applications via Submittable are accepted
- Attachments are titled using the CMA naming convention as indicated in the guidelines, and uploaded in accepted file formats as part of the application

To apply, cont'd.

- Create a free Submittable account or log-in to your existing Submittable account
- Type directly into the online form or draft your application in an offline document and copy your responses into the online application
- Click SAVE DRAFT on bottom of application. Submittable maintains your draft for 21 days

A complete application includes

- Audio Samples for Composer, Ensemble and Guest Artist(s) (if applicable)
- Memorandum(s) of Understanding with Composer and with Ensemble, if presenter applicant
- Composer résumé or bio
- Bio for each Guest Artist, if applicable
- Completed written application

Completing the application

- Prepare your attachments and title each file using CMA's naming convention, e.g., Applicant Name – Composer Audio Summary
- Upload all required files
- When application is complete, click SUBMIT
- CMA will confirm receipt via email

Panel basics

- U.S.-based musicians, versed in current compositional trends, review the applications
- The panel incorporates several rounds of review; a portion of recommended applicants is advanced after each round
- Panel evaluation takes place through a “blind listening” process
- The panel will take place in June; applicants will be notified by early July

Panel review process

- Composer audio samples are evaluated for compositional technique/skill, imaginative understanding of the instrumentation, and ability to speak to the listener on an emotional level
- Ensemble audio samples are evaluated for their performance of the selected repertoire, artistic vision, ensemble cohesiveness and ability to speak to the listener on an emotional level

Scoring, notes and feedback

- The panel uses a scoring system of 10 (excellent), 4 (good/very good), 1 (non-competitive)
- Panelists also write notes on their review sheets
- Panel feedback—scores and notes are provided to applicants after notifications are made

Proof of citizenship/permanent residency

If awarded a *Classical Commissioning* grant, the following is required:

- presenter grantees—non-profit documentation
- ensembles (if grantee or an ensemble partnering with a presenter)—either non-profit documentation OR proof of citizenship or permanent resident status (green card) for the ensemble leader
- composer—proof of citizenship or resident status

CMA Resources

Classical Commissioning Grant

<http://www.chamber-music.org/programs/classical/grants>

Grant & Award Recipients

<http://www.chamber-music.org/programs/classical/grants-awards/recipients>

Press Room

www.chamber-music.org/about/press-room

CMA Resources

Membership Directory

www.chamber-music.org/members/directory

Statement of Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

<https://www.chamber-music.org/statement-commitment>

Composers Equity Project

<https://www.chamber-music.org/pdf/2019-CCP/Composers-Equity-Project.pdf>

Thank you

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