Selected Funding Resources for Composers

Grants to fund commissions, performances, recordings, residencies, study, creative time, and community engagement activities

Compiled by the Music Entrepreneurship & Career Center, Updated August 2016

Aaron Copland Fund for Music
Description: Three grant programs to support contemporary American music: funds to record, perform, and facilitate presentation.

Deadlines: Recording TBA; Performing Ensembles June 30, 2017; Supplemental TBA.

Amounts: Up to $20,000.

Eligibility: Non-profit and fiscally sponsored organizations. Performing ensembles must have at least a 2-year history and a demonstrated commitment to new American music. Students and non-professional musicians not eligible.

Application: See site for details.

American Composers Forum
Description: Approx. 10 programs that support composers and fund community outreach. Many awards limited to composers residing in Minnesota.

Deadlines: See site.

Jerome Fund for New Music
Description: Supports the creation of new musical works in all genres by emerging composers, improvisers, and sound artists.

Deadline: Aug. or Sept.

Amount: Up to $7,000 for commissioning fee; $1,500 available for project development.

Eligibility: Emerging composers living in New York City or Minnesota who collaborate with an ensemble or a venue to present their work.

Application: Online application, personal statement, description of proposed composition, bio, two work samples, letter of commitment from performing ensemble.

Beebe Fund
Description: Funding for musicians to pursue advanced study abroad, usually in Europe.

Deadline: mid-December

Amount: $22,000 (3-5 grants per year)

Eligibility: Early-career musician based in the U.S., under 30 years of age.

Application: Submit application, academic transcripts, at least two letters of recommendation. After first round of review, selected applicants send CDs and scores; finalists travel to Boston for live auditions.

Chamber Music America: Classical Commissioning Program
Description: Funding for CMA member ensembles and presenters to commission chamber works.

Deadline: early April. Amount: $5K- $20K

Eligibility: Ensembles: based in the US, committed to contemporary and/or world music, CMA members. Composers: US citizens or permanent residents. Works previously written or for multimedia not eligible.

Application: Online application (the ensemble applies), sample recordings of performances by the ensemble, letters of intent.
**Composers and Schools in Concert Grants**  
**Description:** Funding for workshops and commissions.  
**Deadline:** Rolling.  
**Amount:** $200 - $2,550  
**Eligibility:** Composers or performers in collaboration with composers.  
**Application:** Online application with information about workshop and lesson plan, if appropriate.

**Fromm Music Foundation**  
**Description:** Commissions approximately 12 composers annually via competitive application; sponsors new music concerts.  
**Deadline:** June 1 annually  
**Details:** See site.

**Guggenheim Foundation Grants**  
**Description:** Provides funding for prominent composers to create new works.  
**Deadline:** September  
**Amount:** Varies. Average in 2008 was $43,200  
**Eligibility:** American or Canadian composers  
**Application:** Online application with up to 3 recordings & scores, 4 reference letters.

**Koussevitzky Foundation Grants**  
**Description:** Funds for reputable chamber groups and orchestras with histories for performing new music to commission works.  
**Deadline:** March  
**Amount:** Chamber works: $12,500-$17,500. Orchestral works: Up to $20,000.  
**Eligibility:** Broad. US citizenship not required, nor does a group need to be based in the US.  
**Application:** Application form plus supporting materials. See guidelines.

**Md State Arts Council: Individual Artist Award**  
**Description:** Grants offered for different artistic disciplines on a 3-year rotation; composition is included in two of those years.  
**Deadline:** July.  
**Amount:** $1,000 - $6,000  
**Eligibility:** Maryland resident who is not a student. Work samples must be < 3 years old.  
**Application:** See site.

**Nadia and Lili Boulanger International Centre**  
**Description:** Provides grants for composers and performers to study in France  
**Deadline:** June 30 (apply 2 years in advance)  
**Amount:** Variable, depending on need  
**Eligibility:** Must be 20-32 years old and plan to study with a teacher in France  
**Application:** Application form, CV, copy of ID, description of study plan, written agreement from teacher in France, three references, at least one score with recording.

**New Music USA Project Grants**  
**Description:** Offsets costs associated with creating, recording, commissioning, performing, and presenting new music. Also supports community engagement.  
**Deadline:** Twice yearly: November & April.  
**Amount:** Total grant budget exceeds $600,000. Awards range from $250-$15,000. Special emphasis for grants <$3,000.  
**Eligibility:** US citizens and foreign-born composers who are primarily active in the US.  
**Application:** Create project page on site.

**New Music USA: Music Alive**  
**Description:** Funding to support “composer-in-residence positions with orchestral ensembles.” See site for details.

**New Music USA: Cary New Music Fund**  
**Description:** Provides grants to small new music ensembles and organizations operating in the five boroughs of New York City.  
**Deadline:** February.  
**Amount:** $3,000-$15,000.  
**Eligibility:** Organizations must be based in NYC and in operation for three or more years. See site for additional requirements.  
**Application:** Online application form.
More Listings of Funding Resources

*Bridge Database.* Search for grants, fellowships, competitions, and more.

*The Musician's Way Resources for Grantseekers.* Links to grant directories, community foundation locators, grant-writing tutorials, and more.

*Society of Composers, Inc.* Known as SCION, the SCI Opportunity Newsletter lists competitions, grants, and commissions available to composers sorted by deadline. Membership required.

*New York Foundation for the Arts Source.* Click “discipline”; then, in the discipline dropdown select “Music”; choose subdiscipline “Music, All”; choose secondary discipline “Composers.”

*For listings of artist residency programs, see the resources on the MECC Opportunity Search page.*