Selected Funding Resources for Composers

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

Compiled by Peabody LAUNCHPad, Updated July. 2018

Aaron Copland Fund for Music
Description: Three grant programs to support contemporary American music: funds to record, perform, and facilitate presentation.
Deadlines: Recording November 15; Performing Ensembles June 30; Supplemental Program Oct. 31.
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.

**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 LAUNCHpad Search for jobs page.