

## SUMMER UPDATES

# THE PRESSER FOUNDATION

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## JOIN US

### Next Movement: Idea Forum on Racial Equity

The Presser Foundation serves a broad and diverse community of musicians, educators, and music lovers, and is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, proactive anti-racism and anti-bigotry in all areas of music. Music speaks directly to the human experience, and provides one of the most fertile platforms to renounce social and cultural injustices, to fight for social justice, and to work vigorously for a more humane and inclusive future.

To continue our work in the area, we are eager to announce that the next event in our Next Movement series will be a panel discussion focused on racial equity. Grantee partners at varying stages of implementation will share how they created and integrated ideas within their respective organizations.

The Presser Foundation is hosting this forum for sharing and engaging in dialogue with other music professionals so that everyone can learn and find more ways to be centered on equity and justice.

The event will be on Thursday, September 9 from 12:00-1:30 pm on Zoom. [Register here](#), and a link will be sent to you the week of the discussion. It will also be recorded and shared if you are unable to attend the live event.

We look forward to seeing you there and learning more together!

## APPLY

### Special Project Microgrants

The Presser Foundation is committed to advancing and embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion principles in its work. As a result, for the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Special Projects Committee will consider proposals for planning grants up to \$5,000 for efforts to center racial equity within music organizations.

Note - you can apply for a microgrant AND apply for other grants from Presser! You are **not limited** to applying for only one grant from the Foundation.

[Learn more here](#), and apply by September 15<sup>th</sup> on the Foundation's website.

## GRANTMAKING 2020-2021 Recap



The Presser Foundation assisted in funding [Revivals of Blackness](#), put together by World Cafe Live. This multimedia performance is a ceremony interweaving music, dance, poetry, interviews, and visuals to illustrate the collective lived experiences of diasporic Blackness.



Presser supported the [Fetter & Air](#), an immersive sound installation experience provided by the Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia (MCP).



The Foundation supported the [Chester Children's Chorus](#) (CCC) by providing funds that were used to purchase large tents. These tents helped the CCC follow CDC guidelines by conducting their Summer Learning Program Camp outside. Camp could continue on, regardless of rain or shine!

During a difficult year, The Presser Foundation continued to give in its six focus areas - Advancement of Music, Assistance To Music Teachers, Capital Support, Graduate Music Award, Special Projects, and Undergraduate Scholar Award.

The Foundation gave Special Projects grants totaling \$517,300 to 42 nonprofits, who received the funds immediately to combat the effects of COVID-19. This group was comprised of six newer organizations, five pilot programs and 32 creative proposals, many of which requested funding for technology to conduct online broadcasts during COVID.

General operating support (support for Advancement of Music) totaling \$1,166,500 was extended to 86 music organizations in the Greater Philadelphia area. These grants included both single year and multi-year support, and were also paid out immediately in order to help these organizations reimagine their performances.

Thirty-five organizations received Capital Support grants totaling \$1,954,200. This funding will be paid over six years and provide both single year and multi-year support to various organizations. An additional \$547,500 is being paid by the Foundation due to previous commitments. These wide-ranging grants were used to help support the purchase of a computer, equipment for recording, supplies for summer camps, a micro-stage, and needed maintenance and renovation of buildings.

Undergraduate Scholar and Graduate Music Awards, ranging from \$4,000 to \$10,000 and totaling \$1,040,000, were given to 220 undergraduate schools of music and 16 graduate schools of music. These awards are designed to encourage and support in a special way the education and career of music students who exemplify high academic and musical accomplishment, leadership, and citizenship.

Finally, The Presser Foundation continues to support retired music teachers with financial need through Assistance To Music Teachers. The Foundation is open to considering nominations from institutions for potential new assistance recipients. Nominating institutions should have first-hand knowledge of the applicant's professional accomplishments and personal circumstances, either directly as current or former employers, or through professional or community contacts. Please contact the Foundation if you would like to obtain more information on eligibility and the nominating process.

In total, Presser gave nearly \$4.2 million this fiscal year in order to support 419 people and organizations in/contributing to a wide variety of musical endeavors. We are proud to work with you, and appreciate your important work and service to your community!

The Foundation is committed to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, both internally and externally. The Nominating and Governance Committee worked hard this year to revise the nominating process and grant guidelines, and Presser's Racial Equity Intern (more below) also contributed to advancing this work. The Foundation will continue to find and implement concrete ways to embed these principles into its values, practices, and systems.

## UPDATES

### Board & Staff

#### *Board*

The president of the board, **Dr. Jeffrey Cornelius**, was honored with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who. Dr. Cornelius was chosen for his leadership in music education. [Learn more here](#) about Dr. Cornelius' distinguished career and the background of the award.

#### *Staff*

We were grateful to host **Artivia Tahir** as the Racial

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Equity Intern this summer. A rising senior at University of Pennsylvania, Artivia spearheaded needed research into our grantees in order to provide vital information about the Foundation's grantmaking efforts. Artivia also helped revise the Handbook, researched office space, and assisted with the early planning for another Next Movement Series. She contributed thoughtfully to our work, and we are eager to use knowledge and resources from her to continually improve.

The Presser Foundation thanks **Janine Baschoff** for her years of service as the part-time Grants Manager. We have all benefited from Janine's project management, organization skills and kind personality.

We welcome **Abby Rolland** as our new Grants & Communications Manager, an expanded full-time position that will elevate the Foundation's voice and reach to the music community has led to the evolution and creation of this position. She can be reached at [arolland@presserfoundation.org](mailto:arolland@presserfoundation.org).

*"I'm thrilled to be working at The Presser Foundation, and I'm eager to connect with you! Please feel free to contact me at any time - my door (or inbox) is always open."*

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### THE PRESSER FOUNDATION

1501 Cherry Street Philadelphia, PA 19102 267.519.5350  
[www.presserfoundation.org](http://www.presserfoundation.org)