



THE PRESSER FOUNDATION

A Message From Jeffrey Cornelius, President of the Board of Trustees

Greetings and welcome to the 2022 Summer Newsletter of The Presser Foundation!

This edition contains summary information on the philanthropic work of the Foundation during this past year as well as significant plans for the coming year.

Of special note is the achievement of a milestone in the Foundation's history at our Annual Board Meeting in June. The establishment of a new, permanent standing committee called the DEI Committee (a term understood universally to signal Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) follows years of committed effort by the members of our Board to align all of our activity with the highest standards of social justice and to use our unique platform to encourage substantive change among the music organizations we serve. The committee will provide guidance and support for our work in centering racial equity and social justice in all we do, from Board and committee membership, to granting policies and practices, leadership forums, stewardship, and it will affect every dimension of our work. It will extend our role as catalyst among the almost 400 music organizations we serve in order to heighten awareness and efforts of a broad-based musical and cultural constituency. We are deeply indebted to the members of the Board and its committees -- particularly to Ellen Rosen, who from the beginning volunteered to steer this effort -- and to our staff, headed by Executive Director Teresa Araco Rodgers. We have resolved that this will be an ongoing effort, central to the Foundation's philanthropy and central to our way of doing business from now on. Congratulations and thanks to all!

It is also a particular pleasure to welcome five distinguished new committee members to the work of the Foundation: Lei X. Ouyang, Eric Owens, Nicole Robinson, Marietta Simpson, and Terell Stafford. The aggregate talent, intellect, experience, and commitment represented by this new cohort augurs well for the future of the Foundation. You may already know their names and reputations, but please take the time to check [the blog post](#) for information on each person. We are delighted to have them with us.

Another milestone is the establishment of a music fellowship as part of our commitment to include varied perspectives in our work, as well as to contribute

to the prepare significant musical careers. Add to this the detailed and extremely helpful work of our summer interns and you can perhaps sense the momentum of our organization. Details on all of these individuals and their work are available in this edition.

My sincerest gratitude goes out to Teresa and Grants & Communications Manager Abby Rolland, whose outstanding efforts have enabled our significant advancement in these and many other initiatives.

Every good wish for a restful and rejuvenating summer.

GRANT GUIDELINES

2022-23 Special Project Grant Guidelines

The Special Projects grantmaking area regularly supports three different types of projects: 1) Pilot programs and first-time collaborations between existing music organizations and other artistic organizations; 2) Significant anniversary celebratory performances of an organization (*must be a quarter century milestone – 25, 50, 75 years, etc.*); and 3) Initial general operating funding for newly established music organizations (*up to 5 years in existence*).

As part of The Presser Foundation's equity focus, the Special Projects Committee expanded its guidelines last year to accept applications for planning grants up to \$5,000 for efforts to center racial equity within music organizations.

As the Foundation continues its own work to center equity, the Special Projects Committee has again extended last year's revised grant guidelines to this year and will consider proposals for planning grants up to \$5,000 for efforts to center racial equity within music organizations. The aim of the grant is to help minimize a financial barrier for organizations getting started in this important work.

Applications are due by September 15.

Please reach out to Teresa Rodgers at trodgers@presserfoundation.org with questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 2022 Next Movement:
Centering Equity within your Board**

Save the date on **Tuesday, September 27 from 12-1:15 pm EDT** for our upcoming Next Movement Idea Forum! Per requests received from our August 2021 Next Movement post-event survey, this virtual event will focus on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) within nonprofit boards. Keep an eye on our social media platforms and website for more details and a registration link.

To learn more about Next Movement, check out [our website](#).

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Total Grantmaking for 2021-22



2022 Festival Concert

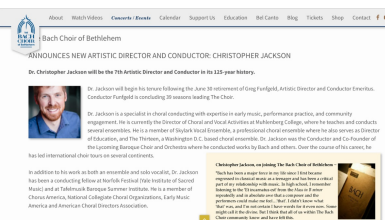
Our concert of world premieres by 2022 festival participants will take place on July 22nd at 8pm in Rock Hall, Temple University (1715 N. Broad St). Performers are Jessica Becke (soprano), Emmalee Tello (clarinet), Andrew Yee (cello), Hanchien Lee (piano), and the Wildflower New Music Ensemble, directed by Rajna Swaminathan.

Our Festival Concert is free and open to the public! No registration required.

2022 Festival Concert

Friday, July 22nd at 8pm
Rock Hall, Temple University
1715 N. Broad St.
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Join Wildflower Composers for their 2022 Festival Concert on July 22nd. The festival is open to any gender-marginalized student who is between the ages of 13 and 19. The Foundation provided funding to Wildflower Composers and their camp.



The Bach Choir of Bethlehem announced that Dr. Christopher Jackson will be the 7th Artistic Director & Conductor beginning with their 125th Season. The Foundation has a long history of funding the Choir and provided a sounding board during the search for this position.

Paul Robeson House & Museum

WEST PHILLY PORCHFEST 2022

"We're going to keep playing and having some fun up here," keyboardist Kayla Childs of the band Omar's Hat shared everyone. "And we hope you're having a good time!"

The audience seated on the sidewalk in front of the Paul Robeson House & Museum in Philadelphia heard her clapping and smiling and absorbing the beats on a hot Saturday afternoon in June. They were hanging out here to help celebrate Porchfest 2022, the annual event that invites people to drop by spots in West Philadelphia to enjoy music on porches.



The West Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, which owns and operates the Paul Robeson House and Museum, hosted Porchfest 2022 - a do-it-yourself community music festival on June 4th. The Alliance received a capital grant for renovations to the Robeson House.

As the world adjusts to current realities, The Presser Foundation again gave to its six focus areas this past fiscal year - Advancement of Music, Assistance to Music Teachers, Capital Support, Graduate Music Award, Special Projects, and Undergraduate Scholar Award.

To start the year, the Foundation gave Special Projects grants to 27 music organizations. Nine organizations received funding for pilot programs or collaborations, three were awarded significant anniversary gifts, six newer organizations received general operating support, and nine organizations were given racial equity planning grants. Two organizations received the second installment of a two-year multi-year grant, and the Foundation gave honorariums to four organizations who presented at its Next Movement Idea Forum for Centering Racial Equity. In total, \$272,500 was given through Special Projects.

The Advancement of Music Committee approved single year and multi-year general operating support grants totaling \$1,350,500 to 109 music organizations. Both the amount given, and the number of organizations given to, are the most in the Foundation's history in this category of grantmaking. These organizations create and share a wide variety of music genres – from classical to jazz to Jewish-themed to Hispanic/Latinx to Indian and more.

Twenty-six music organizations received Capital Support grants totaling \$667,800. This funding will be paid over three years and provide both single year and multi-year support for traditional building projects and COVID-related grants, including the building of a new acoustical shell, new practice rooms at a regional college, the replacement of dated technology, the installation of a new digital marquee to attract audiences to return in-person, the purchase of recording studio equipment, and more. An additional \$660,000 is being paid this year by the Foundation for previous commitments.

Undergraduate Scholar and Graduate Music Awards totaling \$1,044,000 were given to 221 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. Undergraduate students are using the awards for tuition, to purchase new instruments, to take additional music lessons, and/or to attend music conferences. Graduate student research proposals focus on topics such as Maracatu drumming in Brazil, the commission and recording of four new choral compositions by Filipino-American composers, research on choral compositions by Black composers, and the creation of a documentary on Chinese hip-hop.

Finally, The Presser Foundation supports 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, the Foundation gave more than \$3.95 million this fiscal year in order to support 350 people and organizations in/contributing to a wide variety of musical endeavors. We are proud to work with our partners and appreciate your important efforts and service to your communities!

NEWS & INFORMATION

Oral Reporting Option

We are pleased to introduce a new reporting method for organizations who receive general operating support (either through Advancement of Music or Special Projects) that we would like to offer to our partners – oral reporting.

While partners will be able to submit a written report if they prefer, we hope that offering an oral report option will be a benefit to partners who are interested. **It does not matter which**

report (written or oral) you do – it will have no impact on current or future grants.

We wish to offer this option as a service.

Details related to oral reporting sessions:

- Each oral reporting session will be scheduled for one hour. We do not expect nor require that the entire hour will be filled.
- Each oral reporting session will be recorded for internal purposes only (in case Foundation staff want to listen to certain points again).
- The same questions that are asked in the written report will be asked in the oral report. For documentation such as completed budgets and photos/videos, please send those documents via email to Abby Rolland (arolland@presserfoundation.org) by the week before the report deadline (Special Projects – September 8; Advancement of Music – November 8).
- Abby will take notes on the session and will send the compiled, completed answers to all parties for clarification and approval. She will then upload the approved answers to our grant management system.

To schedule an oral reporting session:

- Click on this [Calendly link](#) to request an oral reporting session time for Special Projects (ONLY FOR GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT). Oral reporting session times will be available from August 8 to September 2.
- If you would like to do an oral report, please fill out the Calendly link by August 1.
 - A calendar meeting request and Zoom link will be sent after you choose a time.
 - If you do not fill out the link by 6 pm on August 1, we will assume that you are completing a written report.
 - We have set August 1 as the deadline because our calendars fill quickly, and we will need to schedule reporting sessions in advance. That will give both you and us the appropriate time to prepare.
- If you would like to do an oral report and none of the times available on the calendar work for you, please email Abby at arolland@presserfoundation.org.
- The oral report session schedule for Advancement of Music will open on September 19.

Again, it does not matter which report (written or oral) you do – it will have no impact on current or future grants! We wish to offer this option as a service. With that being said, please know that this is the Foundation’s first time offering oral reporting. We ask for your patience and understanding as we work out the kinks that are likely to appear in this first year.

Reach out to Abby at arolland@presserfoundation.org with any questions!

Guest Blog Posts

Don’t forget that you can write a guest blog post for your organization that will be published on The Presser Foundation website!

An organization will receive an honorarium of \$150 for an accepted post.

Click on [this link](#) for more information.

Board & Staff Updates

New Committee Members

At our annual Board meeting, we were pleased to welcome five new committee members to The Presser Foundation – Lei X. Ouyang, Eric Owens, Nicole Robinson, Marietta Simpson, and Terell Stafford! Check out [this blog post](#) to learn more about these remarkable individuals and how they are connected to music.

DEI Committee

The Board of Trustees also approved the creation of a permanent standing committee called the DEI Committee. The DEI Committee shall advise, support, and analyze the advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the following areas:

- Recruitment and retention of diverse Trustees and Committee Members,
- Work, operations, and processes of the Foundation,
- Grantmaking,
- Policies and procedures,
- Education of the Board and its Committees, and
- Engagement with the Greater Philadelphia music community.

We look forward to integrating the work of the DEI Committee into all of the Foundation’s processes and practices.

Interns

We introduced our summer interns in the last edition of the newsletter. Below are some updates from them on what they’ve been up to!

Julia Maurer Gregory is organizing, labeling, and creating exhibits for the Foundation’s special collection of archival documents located at our office.

“My Special Projects internship, since the beginning of June, has allowed me to examine historical and current working files of The Presser Foundation and physically

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arrange them in a way adherent to the International Standard Archival Description. This has been a unique experience that has given me the opportunity to spearhead a project to process an archive from scratch, enhancing my capabilities in catalog management, accessioning and deaccessioning processes, as well as curation, as I begin to tackle researching and planning for an exhibit regarding Theodore Presser's tenacity and drive to further his mission toward musical education and philanthropy."

Joseph Richards is conducting research and will write articles about the Foundation's archival materials at Temple University's Special Collections and Archives.

"My internship for The Presser Foundation has been focused on studying and combing through older documents at Temple University's archives in order to help solidify the history of The Presser Home for Retired Musicians, as well as crafting a more concrete timeline of the grantmaking processes that the Foundation has built over the years."

Music Fellow Announcement

The Presser Foundation is committed to incorporating different voices within its staff to inform the Foundation's external communications and grantmaking. In addition, the Foundation hopes to amplify its grantees' voices and share, with a broad audience, thoughts and reflections on its grantees' performances and programs.

In that vein, we are pleased to announce that Baker Purdon, a doctoral candidate at Temple University's Boyer College of Music & Dance, will be the Foundation's first Music Fellow. He will start in September and work collaboratively with Teresa, Abby, and the Trustees of The Presser Foundation.

Keep an eye out for content from Baker in the future.

Mary Ellen Poole
Malcolm Pryor, Sr.
Nicole Robinson
Marietta Simpson
Terrell Stafford
Susan D. Van Vorst
Peter Witte
Maurice Wright

Staff

Teresa Araco Rodgers

Executive Director

Abby Rolland

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Baker Purdon
Music Fellow

THE PRESSER FOUNDATION

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