



THE PRESSER FOUNDATION

GRANT GUIDELINES

2022-23 Capital Support Grant Guidelines

For the previous two years, the Capital Support Committee considered proposals including the capital needs of music organizations to support music programming efforts largely in response to COVID-19.

Building on those expanded guidelines and with gained perspective on the needs of music organizations, **the Capital Support Committee will again extend the guidelines for this year** and consider proposals for needs including (but are not limited to) hardware, software, equipment, and supplies. This does not include support for musical instruments.

Applications are due by February 1.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2022 Next Movement: Centering Equity within your Board

Interested in learning more about how Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) can be woven into your board?

The Foundation is eager to welcome **DiverseForce** and CEO **Sulaiman Rahman** to present *Next Movement An Idea Forum: Boards & DEI* on Thursday, November 10 from 12:00-1:15ET on Zoom.

DiverseForce is a human capital solutions and advisory firm, specializing in diversity, equity, and inclusion. In 2017, DiverseForce partnered with the University of Pennsylvania to develop its DiverseForce on Boards program, an innovative leadership development and board matching program that prepares high performing mid-to-senior level professionals of color to serve more effectively on governing boards. Since

inception, DiverseForce has graduated 225 professionals of color from the program who have filled over 190 nonprofit board seats in the region.

In this session, you will learn more about the work of DiverseForce and their framework to ensure a more diverse, equitable and inclusive organization from your mailroom to your boardroom.

Please feel free to invite other members of your staff and/or board to attend.

Click on [this link](#) to RSVP.

We hope you can join us!

**Grant funding from The Presser Foundation is not contingent on attending this session. The Foundation simply seeks to provide a platform to amplify expert voices on specific topics.*

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advancement of Music

Don't forget – new applications for 2022-23 Advancement of Music and 2021-22 reports are due on November 15. Reach out to Grants & Communications Manager Abby Rolland at arolland@presserfoundation.org with any questions.

Special Projects

The Presser Foundation is pleased to announce that it will award \$251,000 in Special Projects grants to 23 organizations for the 2022-23 year. This year, the Special Projects grantmaking area is comprised of four categories: pilot programs and first-time programmatic collaborations, significant organization anniversary milestones, general operating support for newer organizations, and planning grants to center racial equity in organizations. In addition, \$55,000 will be given in 2023-24 and 2024-25 as part of multi-year commitments.

Funded projects ranged from collaborations between adult choirs and ensembles and various youth choirs, to a pilot program for a music education fellowship within a children's choir, to commissioned works for anniversary celebrations, to an equity planning grant for consultation related to community-building in a new space.

The Foundation will also honor \$12,500 in previous commitments.

To learn more about the Special Projects grants for this year, check out [the press release](#) posted on the Foundation's website.

Read below to learn about two Special Projects that received funding last year.

[Art Sphere: Digital Composers and Musicians of the Future \(pilot program\)](#)

Art Sphere developed a pilot project with multiple different components as an alternative to and in support of their in-person music programs.

Four different music teachers working with IT support provided four live 10-week online classes on MS365: Hacking Music, Introduction to Producing and Creating Music, DIY - Instrument and Song Workshop and Learning Music with Art Sphere.

For Introduction to Producing and Creating Music, Art Sphere used a remote server to connect students who had no or limited WiFi to music-making apps, such as digital instruments.

Their video editor, curriculum writer, and teacher teams built an educational video series about music history to convey how unique instruments were developed in many countries from around the world. One student responded by saying: "It never even occurred to me how little I know about music and musicians from my own heritage, let alone other races and cultures."

In the winter, the team created lesson plan books to expand their downloadable course offerings. They also worked with MilkCrate (the app designer) to provide interactive volunteer opportunities. For the MLK Day of Service and Valentine's Day online volunteer events, 63 volunteers registered in the app, having embraced new technology to connect with students.

Overall, Art Sphere was able to use Special Project grant funds to develop technology to further connect students with music and connect volunteers with their music.

Philadelphia Sinfonia: 25th Anniversary Celebration (significant anniversary milestone)

As part of its 25th Anniversary Season, Philadelphia Sinfonia hosted a Festival Concert in May 2022 that featured Haydn's *The Creation*, Part 1. Grant funds helped pay for special guests The Philadelphia Boys and Girls Choirs, professional soloists, and various related expenses to fully realize Haydn's masterpiece in a Verizon Hall performance.

Performance day featured 80 Philadelphia Sinfonia instrumentalists, 160 singers from the Boys and Girls Choirs and Chorale, and three soloists from The Academy of Vocal Arts.

The project helped Sinfonia realize, "in a high-profile public format the education we impart to young instrumentalists and, after 25 years, the place we have come to hold in the musical fabric of the region."

Undergraduate Scholar Award and Graduate Music Award

In 2022-23, The Presser Foundation will support 222 undergraduate schools and programs of music through the Undergraduate Scholar Award program. Each higher education institution will receive \$4,000 to give to a selected outstanding music major.

In addition, 15 graduate schools of music are chosen by the Scholar Award Committee to participate in the Graduate Music Award program. Each institution selects a graduate student and their proposal for funding at \$10,000.

In total, The Presser Foundation will give \$1,038,000 to exceptional undergraduate and graduate music students this year. The Foundation is excited to learn how the awards will contribute to the study and practice of music by students dedicated to the field.

NEWS & INFORMATION

Blog Posts

1) Remember that your organization can submit a guest blog post about your efforts and receive an unrestricted honorarium! Check out the [guest blog post guidelines](#) on our website, or read the [first guest blog post submission](#) about *Girondines* from the Wilmington Concert Opera.

2) Why does The Presser Foundation [support fiscally sponsored organizations](#)? What's the [journey of a grant application](#)? How did one Graduate Award recipient use his award to [compose and record an orchestral piece about his "Long Walk"](#) to campus from his home?

The Presser Foundation's blog features stories about music, about philanthropy, and about its partners. Check out the Foundation's blog and subscribe to keep up to date on everything happening.

Board & Staff Updates



Music Fellow Baker Purdon directing the orchestra for his debut album, [Walking Through the Valley: Choral Music from Black Composers, 1919–2022](#).

Music Fellow

Read this [great article](#) about Music Fellow Baker Purdon, who also received the Graduate Music Award from Temple University for 2021-22. The article discusses his released album that honors Black choral

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music, some of which he reports was recorded for the first time.

Also, read an update from Purdon below about his work at the Foundation thus far.

The 2022-2023 concert season is in full swing! With nearly 50 performances on the calendar, I am excited to share some of what I've seen so far as the Foundation's first Music Fellow.

Since the start of September, I've been able to hear transcendent singing from Lyric Fest's 20th season opener, the power of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 from the Reading Symphony Orchestra, and music as academically informed as it is moving from Piffaro, the Renaissance Band. Other performances to date have included moving and interactive work from Intercultural Journeys' Table Sessions series and a wide variety of music from the Allentown Symphony, Music at Bunker Hill, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and Wilmington Concert Opera.

It is an honor to work for The Presser Foundation and to be able to experience all the incredible artistry that the Foundation is able to support.

*Musically yours,
Baker Purdon*

Leon Bates
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