



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

Dear Friends,

The Presser Foundation has served the causes of music, music education, and philanthropy for nearly a century. Its impact has been substantial to the over 400 organizations and institutions it serves on an annual basis. Working to realize the vision of our founder, Theodore Presser, has been a Board of Trustees whose members come from a variety of professional and personal backgrounds, but whose common link is music. They have been tireless in their commitment to the mission of the Foundation, and these exceptional individuals have led the us with imagination, compassion, and eyes to the future. A remarkable team led by Executive Director Teresa Rodgers has enabled the realization of our mission. She, Grants & Communications Manager Abby Rolland, Financial Manager Jill Feldman, and Graduate Music Fellow Baker Purdon bring imagination, efficiency, and vision to all they do. As a result, the Foundation today is wholly transformed, enabling us to move into the future with confidence. As I retire from the board after twenty years of service, the last five of which, as President, I want to express my deepest appreciation to all of these individuals. I cannot imagine a more wonderful group of people with whom to work toward our common goals.

I also want to express my thanks to the leadership of the many organizations we serve for enriching the lives of their communities. I think this is exactly what Mr. Presser had in mind when he established the foundation. Together, we have accomplished truly great things despite the incredible challenges we have faced with regard to the overall economy, global public health, the quest for social justice, and an increasingly Internet dependent world. Actually, I believe that what we have done together has been astonishing.

These years have been among the most gratifying of my life, and I wish to thank you all very sincerely for your efforts to accomplish something very good in our society through the power of music.

Jeffrey Cornelius

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Presser Foundation has moved!

We moved to the Philadelphia neighborhood of Chestnut Hill in February, and love our new location. Feel free to stop by and say hi!

Office: 8033 Germantown Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19118

Mailing:* PO Box 9982 Philadelphia, PA 19118

Telephone: 267.519.5350

www.presserfoundation.org

Check out our website for updated contact information, and reach out to Teresa Rodgers at **trodgers@presserfoundation.org** if you have questions!

**Please send all mail to the PO Box.*

GRANT GUIDELINES

2023-24 Special Project Grant Guidelines

The Special Projects Committee met in April and has modified the grant guidelines to clarify the types of projects supported. Reach out to staff (Teresa Rodgers - **trodgers@presserfoundation.org** or Abby Rolland - **arolland@presserfoundation.org**) with any questions.

- Pilot or new programs of music organizations that are intended to be embedded into ongoing programming
- First-time artistic collaborations that are intended to be ongoing (e.g., beyond a single performance or series) 1) between existing music organizations or 2) between an existing music organization and another artistic organization (*a music organization must be the applicant and grant recipient*)
- Initial general operating funding for newly established music organizations (up to 5 years in existence)
- With the mission and values of the Foundation in mind, Trustees of the Foundation may encourage or initiate other types of projects or efforts relevant to critical issues and priorities. *For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Committee will again 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.*

Please note that anniversary projects will not be supported moving forward.

Applications are due by September 15.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

2022-23 Advancement of Music

The Presser Foundation was pleased to provide another round of general operating support grants totaling \$1,250,000 to 109 music organizations in the Greater Philadelphia Area. The number of music organizations given to is the most in the Foundation's history in this grantmaking area, and their focus and size vary a great deal. Organizations with budget sizes ranging from \$15,000 to \$54 million and with focuses on classical, jazz, Jewish-themed, Hispanic, and Brazilian music received funding. The Foundation is proud to support small, medium, and large music organizations working to make a difference in their community while significantly contributing to music and the arts in Greater Philadelphia.

Learn more about the organizations that received grants in the [press release](#).

2022-23 Capital Support

The Foundation's Capital Support Committee again expanded the Capital Support grant guidelines to consider the equipment and supply needs of organizations.

With the expansion of guidelines, 20 music organizations received funds, with \$524,700 given in single year and multi-year grants.

Sixteen organizations received single and multi-year grants for a total of \$269,700 for equipment, technology, and supply needs, including purchasing software and hardware for continued streaming efforts, buying a bus for transportation of students, acquiring appropriate archival materials for storing musical scores, and much more. Five organizations received single year and multi-year grants for a total of \$255,000 to go to traditional building and renovation projects.

Additionally, the Foundation will pay out \$604,800 this year for previous and deferred commitments to 10 organizations. See who received grants in this [press release](#).

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Advancement of Music

New Organizations Spotlight

This year, The Presser Foundation was pleased to fund 12 new music organizations to the Advancement of Music grantmaking area, which provides general operating support. These organizations, listed below, come from a 75 mile radius across Pennsylvania, from Philadelphia to Lancaster to Harrisburg to Allentown and over to New Jersey. These are also smaller organizations close to the community, with budget sizes from \$20,000 to \$230,000, and perform for, present to, and teach people of all ages.

Learn more about these wonderful organizations by clicking on their names and visiting their websites.

[Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz](#)

[Lancaster International Piano Festival](#)

[Montgomery County Chorale & Orchestra](#)

[Pennsylvania Philharmonic](#)

[Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra](#)

[Ravensong Historic Keyboard Series](#)

[Relache, Inc.](#)

[The Brandywine Valley Chorale](#)

[The Jazz Sanctuary](#)

[The Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey](#)

[Voices Chorale NJ](#)

[Yun International Music Foundation](#)

Capital Support

Expansion of Guidelines in Previous Years

For the past three years, the Foundation's Capital Support Committee has extended the Capital Support guidelines to fund beyond traditional building or renovation projects, including equipment, supplies, hardware, and software needs.

Since the implementation of the extended guidelines instigated by COVID, the Foundation has committed \$651,000 to 46 unique organizations.

Below, one of our partners shared some thoughts on why support for technology and equipment needs has been vital when the pandemic first started and since then:

“We will not be able to return to our former methods of performing in the near future, and so it is incumbent upon us to create a new path. We anticipate that over the next 3 years or longer, we will want or need to have access to the supports and technology that allow

us to produce and present work, and having access to lights, sound equipment, and camera equipment will make an enormous impact on our ability to continue creating.”

Check out [this blog post](#) to dive deeper into what capital needs were funded and how funds from the extended guidelines made an impact.

E V E N T S

Next Movement – Centering Youth Voice

On April 25th, the Foundation hosted a Next Movement virtual convening that focused on the topic of centering youth voice in music educating organizations. The Foundation welcomed leaders at four music educating organizations to share information about their youth-focused work. Speakers included:

Rebecca Bolden, Project 440

Jessica Craft, Rock to the Future

Lucas DeJesus & Cameron Santiago, ArtSmart

Matthew Kerr & Aquil Shakur, Beyond the Bars

Read the guide that shares background information about each of these organizations’ different efforts to strengthen youth voice, check out the [reflection blog post](#) about the event, or [watch the recording](#) (password: jz&x7LNq).

Next Movement – Incorporating DEI into the Artistic Planning Process

If you’re interested in integrating DEI into your organization’s artistic planning process, the upcoming Next Movement later this summer is for you! It will feature various performing and presenting music organizations sharing their experiences about this topic.

Look out for more information and a registration link soon.

N E W S & I N F O R M A T I O N

Demographic Data via Candid

We are encouraging our partners to complete their GuideStar profiles, including sharing information about the demographics of their staff and Board.

You can read more about why this is important in [this blog](#) by Candid, but the quote below summarizes the impetus for this work.

“By [better understanding the demographic profile](#) of those organizations that are—and are not—receiving funding, we can more closely track if they are representative of the communities they serve and whether they are getting the support they need to deliver on their missions.”

Blog Posts

Guest Blog Post: 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.

Board & Staff Updates

Inaugural Fellow Update

It's been a busy year for Inaugural Graduate Music Fellow Baker Purdon, who concludes his time with the Foundation this month.

Baker has contributed blog posts on organizations' performances ranging from [Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia](#) to [Lyric Fest](#) to [Opera Philadelphia](#). He's shared his thoughts on a [collaboration between choral group Mendelssohn Chorus and youth choral group Commonwealth Youthchoirs](#) and led us through several tours of multiple regional orchestras (see [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)). He also shared his [experiences as a Fellow](#). He has made thoughtful contributions to aspects of the Foundation's grantmaking work, while building processes and putting systems in place for future Fellows to succeed.

The Foundation thanks Baker for his efforts and eagerly awaits the successes that we know will come his way!

Summer Interns

The Presser Foundation is also pleased to welcome two undergraduate summer interns!



They will be working on various projects, including assessing the Foundation's communications through a diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA) lens, updating the Foundation's Trustee handbook, conducting research on the Foundation's current grantee partners, brainstorming ideas for the 100th anniversary of founder Theodore Presser's passing in 2025, and more.



Claire Moustafellos (she/her/hers) is a rising junior at George Washington University studying criminal justice and psychology. She has communications and fundraising experience and serves as her sorority's Philanthropy Director. Claire hopes to combine her interests in criminal justice, writing, and philanthropy in a career.



Cassandra (Cassie) Slade (she/her/hers) is a rising senior at Temple University studying sociology. She has research and communications experience and is involved in [Beauty Birds](#) and the Black Student Union at Temple. Cassie hopes to work in the diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA) field in the future.

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