



A Message From Ellen Rosen, President of the Board of Trustees

Greetings to everyone on behalf of the Board of The Presser Foundation!

I write to you as the new President of The Presser Foundation. It is my honor to serve this Foundation, with its long history of supporting the cause of music.

I succeed Jeffrey Cornelius, who has [provided outstanding leadership](#) to the Foundation for the past 6 years. During Jeff's tenure, the Foundation gave out over \$21 million in grants to provide support for music and music education, as envisioned by our founder Theodore Presser. Jeff steered the Foundation through COVID and initiated the Foundation's ongoing work to center equity. Jeff has had a distinguished career as a musical educator and a performing artist in his own right, and his wisdom and optimism has served as inspiration for the Board and staff. Fortunately, Jeff has agreed to serve the Foundation as an Honorary Trustee so we will continue to benefit from his insight and guidance.

As you will read below, the past year was a productive one for the Foundation. Over \$3.5 million was granted to support music both locally and nationally. Guidelines were reviewed in several grantmaking areas, resulting in revised guidelines for Special Projects and Capital Support. The Undergraduate Scholar Award program is undergoing a "fundamental realignment," as Committee Chair Dr. Mark Wait has deemed it and will institute a number of changes for the 2023-24 year. One such change - the Foundation is eager to welcome a number of new schools, including Historically Black Colleges & Universities, additional Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and one Tribal College, to the program.

Baker Purdon, who concluded his time with the Foundation in May, set a very high bar as the first Graduate Music Fellow of the Foundation. I encourage everyone to read his reviews of grantee performances that are on The Presser Foundation website. Baker also wrote a series of posts about regional orchestras and a post that offered a brief history of chamber music. You can read his work [here](#).

We are delighted to welcome three new Trustees – Dr. Lei X. Ouyang, Marietta Simpson

and Terell Stafford – and a new committee member, Eve Hyppolite. In addition, Sepehr Pirasteh will be the second Foundation Graduate Music Fellow. You can read more about this impressive group below.

Another major event of the past year is that the Foundation moved into new offices in the Chestnut Hill neighborhood of Philadelphia. The new space is filled with light and open to visitors!

I want to thank the staff for all their efforts and expertise. Teresa Rodgers, the Executive Director, and her team serve as the backbone to the Foundation, and it is because of them that we are able to do the work we do.

Best wishes for a healthy and musically enriched summer!

Ellen Rosen

GRANT GUIDELINES

2023-24 Special Project Grant Guidelines

The Trustees of The Presser Foundation created the Special Projects Committee to consider grant requests for special projects in music. Grant amounts are typically between \$5,000 and \$25,000 annually (grant contribution not to exceed 50% of the special project's budget) in support of special projects of music organizations working in a broad range of traditions, genres, and styles. The Presser Foundation does not support theater, commercial music theater, dance, or other non-music productions.

Multi-year requests will be considered and should be submitted for projects greater than a year in duration. Second grants for subsequent years of a project will not be considered.

Types of Projects Supported

- 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 lead 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.

Applications are due by September 15.

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

2023-24 Undergraduate Scholar Award Program Changes

As shared on the Foundation's [blog](#) and social media, the Undergraduate Scholar Award grantmaking area is in the midst of a fundamental realignment in order to better center diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

For 2023-24, several changes have been implemented. Read the blog post to learn about these changes and reach out to Teresa at trodgers@presserfoundation.org with questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Late Summer 2023 Next Movement

We are in the midst of planning for the Foundation's Next Movement forum where we will talk about incorporating diverse and community voices into the creative process. If your organization has taken steps to include different perspectives artistically, please contact Teresa at trodgers@presserfoundation.org.

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

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Total Grantmaking for 2022-23



PRISM Quartet is an award-



Mendelssohn Chorus and



Staff visited the Wells-Rapp

winning saxophone chamber ensemble. The organization has received long-standing general operating support from the Foundation and became a renewed multi-year recipient.

Commonwealth Youthchoirs embarked on a two-year collaborative effort to leverage intergenerational music-making to impact the lives of members of each of the choirs. The project received Special Project funding from the Foundation.

Center for Mallet Percussion Research at Kutztown University. The Center was recently completed and received a \$250,000 Capital Support gift from the Foundation early in its fundraising.

In a year when in-person performances and programs have again become a regular part of daily life, the Foundation knows that some aspects of programming and operations have irrevocably changed. We recognize that difficult financial markets, a decrease in individual donations, and inflation make sustainability, much less growth, difficult, but we are proud to see music organizations continue to adapt and innovate to serve new and returning audiences and individuals.

That being said, the Foundation is pleased to give more than \$3.58 million to six grantmaking areas: Advancement of Music, Assistance to Music Teachers, Capital Support, Graduate Music Award, Special Projects, and Undergraduate Scholar Award.

Starting in the fall, the Foundation gave Special Projects grants to 23 music organizations. Eleven organizations received funding for pilot programs or collaborations, seven were awarded significant anniversary gifts, four newer organizations received general operating support, and one organization were given racial equity planning grants. One organization received the second installment of a two-year multiyear grant, and the Foundation gave honorariums to four organizations who presented at its Next Movement Idea Forum for Centering Youth Voice. In total, \$264,500 was given through Special Projects.

The Advancement of Music Committee approved single year and multi-year general operating support grants totaling \$1.25 million to 109 music organizations. Organizations with budgets ranging from \$15,000 to \$54 million received funding.

Twenty music organizations received Capital Support grants totaling \$524,700. This funding will be paid over three years and provide both single year and multi-year support for traditional building projects and equipment and technology grants, such as a new bus for transporting children to afterschool music programming, audio upgrades, archival materials for preserving musical scores, music production hardware and software, lighting equipment for a small studio, and more. An additional \$604,800 is being paid this year by the Foundation for previous commitments.

Undergraduate Scholar and Graduate Music Awards totaling \$1,034,000 were given to 221 undergraduate schools of music and 15 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 Award 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 research on the guqin, one of the oldest instruments in China; a piano composition and performance about protest in Iran; development of a sample library and musical piece using the oud (an Arab instrument); and in-depth study of

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 \$3.58 million this fiscal year in order to support people and organizations 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!

Link for Submitting Performances/Programs

The Presser Foundation is pleased to welcome Sepehr Pirasteh (he/they) as our Fellow for the 2023-24 year! You can read more about Sepehr and his music below.

Similar to last year's Fellow Baker Purdon, Sepehr will be attending performances and programs of our grantee partners and writing about his experiences. If you'd like for them to attend any of your performances, please complete this short [Google Form](#) about **each one** of the performances that you'd like to invite him to.

They will be reaching out in September to follow-up with any submissions.

NEWS & INFORMATION

Your Social Media

We want to learn more about your use of social media!

As part of the Foundation's efforts to highlight its partners' efforts, we've been sharing your stories and highlighting past programs and performances.

We want to better understand if this is an effective way to highlight your work. Summer interns Cassie Slade and Claire Moustafellos have developed [a short survey](#) to receive your insights and feedback. Please complete the survey by Monday, July 31st, and reach out to Abby at arolland@presserfoundation.org with any questions.

Oral Reporting Option

Based on feedback from grantee partners last year, **organizations who receive general operating support (either through Advancement of Music or Special Projects) and have budgets under \$500,000** are eligible to complete either a written report or an oral report.

While partners are 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.**

Details related to oral reporting sessions:

- Each oral reporting session will be scheduled for 30 minutes. We do not expect nor require that the 30 minutes 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) 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 7 to August 31.
 - If you would like to do an oral report, please fill out the Calendly link by July 31.
 - 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 July 31, we will assume that you are completing a written report.
 - 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 18.
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Guest Blog Posts

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

New Board & Committee Members

The Presser Foundation is pleased to welcome new Officers this fiscal year. Under the leadership of Ellen Rosen, they will play a vital role in leading the Board in its work. We will provide more information on each of them in an upcoming blog post.

The Foundation also welcomes three new Board of Trustee members, Dr. Lei X. Ouyang,

Marietta Simpson, and Terell Stafford. Each of these individuals has previously served as a Committee Member and was welcomed to the Board at the June Annual Meeting. You can read about our new Trustees in this [blog post](#).

The Foundation added a new Committee member, Eve Hyppolite. She is a Product Experience Engineer and Storyteller at Comcast NBCUniversal and is a self-taught music producer, singer-songwriter, and musical artist.

Music Fellow Announcement

The Presser Foundation is pleased to announce that it will welcome Sepehr Pirasteh (he/they), a PhD student in Music Studies at Temple University's Boyer College of Music & Dance as its second Graduate Music Fellow. Sepehr is a composer and conductor, and his focus is on protest music, diaspora, and political music. Their compositions draw on Persian classical and folk as well as contemporary classical music vocabularies to express his concerns and fears about the political and social realities of the world we are living in. As a conductor, they have been focusing on premiering new music written by young and emerging composers as well as conducting the classical repertoire.

Learn more about Sepehr and his work through [his website](#).

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