



THE PRESSER FOUNDATION

GRANT GUIDELINES

2023-24 Capital Support Grant Guidelines

The Trustees of The Presser Foundation created the Capital Support Committee to consider requests for grants typically between \$10,000 and \$100,000 annually to support capital 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 focused venues.

Capital projects include the construction of new facilities and renovation, repair, or expansion of existing facilities. The Committee will also consider proposals for capital needs including (but are not limited to) hardware, software, and equipment. It does not include grants to cover general operating expenses, musical instruments, or supplies.

Examples of projects that have received funding:

- Construction of a new music building
- Renovation of a room to be used to house music scores
- Upgrades to audio, video, and lighting equipment
- Purchase of an outdoor screen
- Purchase of a bus for transportation of students to afterschool program
- Purchase of the software GarageBand for afterschool students
- Purchase of recording studio equipment

Applications are due by February 1.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 16, 2023 Next Movement:
Using Data to Power Your Work (with Candid)

The Foundation has engaged with [Candid](#), a nonprofit organization that collects data and information about the nonprofit sector, conducts research, and shares resources and analysis about nonprofits and funders.

In this session, you will learn more about Candid's platforms, its Seals of Transparency program, and how providing your data and information can empower your work. The Foundation will share how it and peer funders use demographic data (collected by Candid) to inform decisions, and why this work matters for the charitable sector. The hour-long session will conclude with a quick training and then time for questions and answers.

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

2023-24 Advancement of Music

New applications for 2023-24 Advancement of Music and 2022-23 reports are due on November 15. Reach out to Teresa Rodgers at trodgers@presserfoundation.org with any questions.

2023-24 Special Projects

The Presser Foundation is pleased to announce that it will award \$71,500 in Special Projects single year and multi-year grants to 12 organizations.

This year, music organizations applied for grants within three of the following categories: 1) pilot projects/programs, 2) first-time, ongoing programmatic collaborations, and 3) operating support for newer organizations.

Funded projects include the creation of a new chamber ensemble for high-level performing youth, the production and sharing unique videos online to expand access of Latin chamber and popular music to schoolchildren, and a new collaboration between a well-respected music presenter and music education organization focused on Hispanic/Latinx youth.

The Foundation will also honor more than \$61,000 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 a Special Project that received funding last year.



Philadelphia Chamber Music Society: Singing Freedom (first-time collaboration)

In a collaborative program, the [Philadelphia Chamber Music Society](#) (PCMS) partnered with Philadelphia's historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (AECST) and Berks County's Pine Forge Academy (PFA), the historic Black boarding high school, to design and present a series of events around the themes of enslavement and liberation in the US.

As part of the collaboration, PCMS commissioned vocal works from young Black composers Mason Bynes and Shawn Okpebholo, with texts inspired by the Freedom on the Move collection of thousands of documents 'advertising' for the return of enslaved people who had self-liberated. Housed at Cornell University, this database has become a valuable historical resource, especially for Black families researching enslaved ancestors, and may be the only documentation of their relatives' lives available.

The Singing Freedom series of events, which took place over MLK weekend in January 2023, included student workshops at PFA led by visiting composer Mason Bynes (pictured in photo) to study her new piece that the PFA Honors Choir would perform on the PCMS series; a panel discussion at AECST that featured the composers, vocal soloists, and the co-founder of the Freedom on the Move database; and two public performances including the premieres of the new works in the Perelman Theater. PCMS published personal essays written by renowned Black writers, scholars and influencers in the accompanying program book, which also featured a directory of regional historical sites related to the project's theme for further exploration.

This collaboration among PCMS, AECST and PFA attracted multiple cultural partnerships that helped raise awareness of the impact of enslavement from diverse perspectives. The partnership successfully premiered works by young composers, highlighted the cultural and historical relevance of the Delaware Valley region, brought art and history to life for a new generation of students, and provided meaningful work for multiple artists.

[Learn more](#) about Singing Freedom.

**2023-24 Undergraduate Scholar Award and
Graduate Music Award**

In 2023-24, The Presser Foundation will support over 250 undergraduate schools and programs of music through the Undergraduate Scholar Award program. Each higher education institution will receive \$3,000 to give to a selected outstanding music major. Read these blog posts to learn more about the [substantial changes](#) to the program.

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.

The Foundation is excited to learn how the awards will contribute to the study and practice of music by students dedicated to the field.

Link for Submitting Performances/Programs

The Presser Foundation is interested in sharing and amplifying your work! Foundation staff would like to get to know your organization and the performances and/or programs that you are presenting this year.

We invite all grantee partners to submit 2023-24 performances and/or programs via [this form](#). The Foundation will be in touch with any follow-up inquiries.

If you have any questions, please contact Sepehr Pirasteh at spirasteh@presserfoundation.org.

NEWS & INFORMATION

Next Movement - Centering Community Voice

On September 12, 2023, The Presser Foundation hosted an Idea Forum on centering community voice in music performing and presenting organizations. Four organizations (Ars Nova Workshop, Opera Philadelphia, PRISM Quartet, and The Mann Center for the Performing Arts) shared information about their community-focused work and how they center community voice in their operations and programs.

[*View the recording.*](#)

Passcode: 9Dt.^QFs

[*Read the guide*](#) that features background information about each organizations' efforts.

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](#) and reach out to Abby at arolland@presserfoundation.org with any questions.

Blog Posts

How are music organizations [centering community voice](#) in their operations and programming? What is the [history of chamber music](#)? What were each of interns' experiences ([Cassie Slade](#) and [Claire Moustafellos](#)) during their summers with the Foundation?

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.

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



Graduate Music Fellow Sepehr Pirasteh.

Music Fellow

Fellow Sepehr Pirasteh has been busy attending many of the Foundation's partners' performances. He shared his thoughts on his experiences at the Foundation thus far.

As the lucky Music Fellow at the Presser Foundation, I've had an incredible journey getting to know the ins and outs of nonprofit organizations and the grantmaking process. It's been a fantastic experience learning about the amazing projects our grantees are working on, alongside the talented graduate and undergraduate students who've earned awards. The Presser Foundation has given me a unique opportunity to attend a wide variety of music performances, spanning diverse genres and styles. I've enjoyed the company of talented ensembles, from full orchestras to small chamber groups, each offering a unique and enriching experience.

Music truly knows no bounds, and I'm eager to explore even more musical horizons in the future.

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