



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

Warmest greetings and Happy New Year from the Board of Trustees of The Presser Foundation!

As we embark on a new year, we understand that music is needed now more than ever to enhance our lives in a world full of challenges. For this we thank our founder, Theodore Presser, for his vision to set up The Presser Foundation almost 100 years ago in order to provide resources in support of music to future generations.

Under the leadership of Teresa Araco Rodgers, the staff serving The Presser Foundation is the backbone of The Foundation's success. It is because of their commitment and energy that we are able to provide funding to hundreds of musical organizations and educational institutions, host the Next Movement series, and have an open-door grant administration policy.

We are thrilled to welcome to Rachael Gartner, who is providing grant and other administrative support to the Foundation. I'm also very happy to officially welcome Sepehr Pirasteh, who is our second Foundation Fellow. Both Rachael and Sepehr have hit the ground running and we are grateful for all their efforts in support of the mission of The Foundation.

We are also delighted to welcome a new Committee member, Georges Buzaglo. Georges has joined the DEI Committee. You can read about Georges' extensive and impressive experience below.

In addition to our usual activities, I am excited to announce that we are beginning a strategic planning initiative this year. It will be an important project that will enable the Foundation to take a step back to see how we can best support music and music education in the coming years, keeping in mind the wishes and intent of Mr. Presser to support music endeavors while also ensuring that the Foundation's support of music will help to meet today's challenges. You will hear more about this in the coming months.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter that has helpful information about our Capital Support guidelines and inspirational stories about our grantee partners. Best wishes for a healthy and musically filled winter!

Sincerely,

Ellen Rosen

GRANT GUIDELINES

2023-24 Capital Support Grant Guidelines

The Capital Support Committee considers 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 at trodgers@presserfoundation.org with questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2024 Next Movement

The Foundation looks forward to hosting its first Next Movement of the year in April! More information and a registration link will be shared via social media and on our website soon.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commission in Honor of Dr. Jeffrey Cornelius



On November 1, The Presser Foundation’s Board, Committee Members, and staff were treated to the world premiere of the piece “Smile Thy Shores” by composer Dr. Andrea Clearfield.

Commissioned by the Foundation in honor of former Board President and current Honorary Trustee Dr. Jeffrey Cornelius and his distinguished service to the Foundation during his term, the piece featured the poem “Maine” by Isaac McLellan, honoring Dr. Cornelius’ love of and frequent travels to Maine with his family.

“Smile Thy Shores” featured a vocal octet, performed by Temple University students, and cello, played by Jeffrey Solow. Dr. Mitos Andaya Hart directed the performance.

The moving composition and wonderful performance fittingly honored Dr. Cornelius, his strong and steady leadership, and his many contributions to The Presser Foundation.

Strategic Planning

This year, The Presser Foundation will embark on a strategic planning process meant to engage the staff, Board, and grantee partners on ensuring that the Foundation is achieving its long held stated mission to provide philanthropic support for music and music education and to fund the musical arts in their many dimensions and manifestations, while striving to serve a broad and diverse community of musicians, educators, and music lovers.

The strategic planning process will bring the Foundation’s board and staff together to clarify focus, collect community feedback from grantees, analyze the Foundation’s current mission to determine if it accurately depicts the Foundation’s vision and goals, and the Foundation’s capacity to enact those goals.

The Foundation will continue its current grantmaking programs in their regular cycles and will not pause/discontinue any during the strategic planning process.

If you have any questions about the strategic planning process, please feel free to reach out to Teresa at trodgers@presserfoundation.org.

Undergraduate Scholar Award Announcement

The Presser Foundation is pleased to include 37 new institutions for a total of 244 institutions that will be included in the 2023-24 Presser Undergraduate Scholar Award program.

The Award is designed to encourage and support in a special way the education and career of one music student at each school who has achieved a **high level of musical and academic excellence, demonstrated leadership, and contributed to an inclusive community.**

For years, the Foundation invited schools to apply to be in the program if they showed evidence of meeting high professional standards for faculty, curriculum, and facilities and if they maintained a minimum of sixty undergraduate music majors.

The minimum enrollment number prevented many schools with smaller, yet still excellent, music programs from applying. Keeping in mind its efforts to center equity, the Scholar Award Committee recommended proactively expanding the program to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) that are accredited by the [National Association of Schools of Music](#) (NASM) regardless of the number of undergraduate music majors in their programs.

Institutions that were in the program last year have been invited to participate for the 2023-24 year, including many HSIs and an HBCU that have a long history in the program.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight on Residencies



Above from left to right: Ayanna Woods of the The Crossing, Ariel Alvarado of Wilmington Children's Chorus, and Chill Moody of The Mann Center

Three of the Foundation's grantee partners received Special Project grants to support

fellowship/residency programs – music performer The Crossing (single year grant), music presenter The Mann Center for the Performing Arts (The Mann Center) (single year grant), and music educator Wilmington Children’s Chorus (multi-year grant).

While unique in their own ways, each of the residencies demonstrates how music organizations seek to support rising composers/artists/educators while also centering diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the work that they do. Click on [the link](#) to learn more about each of these residencies.

NEWS & INFORMATION

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 or check out the most recent guest blog post from Music for Everyone about how music can be a [community impact tool](#).

Board & Staff Updates

New Committee Member

The Foundation is also pleased to welcome Georges Buzaglo to the DEI Committee! Dr. Buzaglo is a management consultant based in Philadelphia PA. In 1993, he founded Management Strategies International, Inc. (MSI) a firm specializing in helping organizations accelerate the design and execution of strategic initiatives through proprietary tools and a coherent approach that seamlessly integrates executive development, organization development and culture change methodologies with business strategy. Dr. Buzaglo has lectured and consulted on team performance, project leadership, and strategy design and execution in over 25 countries.

New Staff Member

Rachael Gartner joined harp-weaver LLC, which manages the operations of The Presser Foundation, as Administrative & Grants Associate. She holds a BA in Communications and English Literature from Rosemont College and has fifteen years of administrative experience in legal and higher education settings. She became involved in non-profit work in 2013, organizing an annual 5K fundraiser and handling email communications for Lisa’s Army.

New Arrival

The Foundation is pleased to congratulate, Communications Manager, Abby Rolland, on the birth of her daughter, Charlotte.



welcome
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