



## THE PRESSER FOUNDATION

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Wildfire Resources For Musicians

Wildfires have devastated Los Angeles, and many musicians and performers lost residences, studios, and livelihoods. If you would like to support those affected by the fires, Grantmakers for the Arts compiled [this list of organizations and resources](#).

Additionally, [MusiCares Foundation, Inc.](#), based in Santa Monica, California, created the Disaster Relief Fund as a resource for eligible music professionals impacted by natural disasters, including the fires in the greater Los Angeles area. The organization serves as a safety net supporting the health and welfare of the music community.

#### GRAMMY Museum and Recording Academy's Music Educator Award

The Music Educator Award was created to honor current educators (from kindergarten through college, in both public and private schools) who have made a significant and lasting impact on the field of music education and who show a dedication to the larger cause of supporting music education in schools. The Award serves as a powerful advocate for music education. Twenty-five teachers have the opportunity to win grants for themselves and their school's music program. Learn how to nominate or apply at [grammymusicteacher.com](http://grammymusicteacher.com).

#### Presser Summer Interns

The Foundation is recruiting two undergraduate interns to work on various projects this summer, June through July 2025, for 20 hours per week. The internship is paid and on-site at the Foundation's office at 8033 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia. If you know someone interested, the Foundation's social media will provide information and instructions on how to apply in the upcoming weeks.

# GRANT GUIDELINES

## Capital Support

The **Capital Support** deadline is fast approaching! Capital projects include constructing new facilities, renovating, repairing, or expanding existing facilities, and capital needs including hardware, software, and equipment. Applications are due on the grants management system **by February 1**. Please reach out to Rachael Gartner at [rgartner@presserfoundation.org](mailto:rgartner@presserfoundation.org) with questions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 100th Anniversary of Theodore Presser's Passing

The Presser Foundation's founder Theodore Presser, music educator and publisher, passed away in October 1925. He filled much of his life with philanthropy, including building and supporting the Presser Home for Retired Music Teachers. Following his passing, his philanthropic legacy lived on through the establishment of The Presser Foundation.

To celebrate this milestone and a century of music philanthropy, the Foundation is collaborating with Temple University's Charles Library and its Special Collections Research Center to host an exhibit from September to December 2025. Grantees and the wider music community will be invited to a reception on November 21, 2025 at the Charles Library to commemorate this momentous occasion. Stay tuned for more information.

### NEXT MOVEMENT:

### November 2024: New Music USA

On December 5, 2024, The Presser Foundation hosted a Next Movement Idea Forum with **New Music USA**. New Music USA advances the field of music through strategic funding initiatives, community development, knowledge dissemination, and advocacy efforts. In this convening, they shared their services and upcoming deadlines and also asked about current needs/challenges that artists and organization leaders face in Philadelphia.

**[View the recording.](#)**

Passcode: q@aLxo4u

**[Read the reflection.](#)**

### NEXT MOVEMENT:

### April 2025

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 [the website](#).

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



### Community Music School Collegeville

The Community Music School Collegeville (CMS) provides comprehensive music education through individual lessons, classes, ensembles, and performances for students of all ages, interests, and abilities. In FY24, CMS served 657 individual students through weekly music lessons and camps, with 42% identifying as BIPOC. It also provided over \$112,000 in financial assistance, scholarships, discounts, and free community programming.

Since September 2021, they've eliminated financial barriers by offering several tuition-free programs: Musikgarten classes for ages 15 months to 7 years, KinderFlute classes for ages 5-8, and Suzuki group classes for young string players. These programs foster community and mentorship among students and families, serving 234 families in FY24 alone.

Instruction primarily takes place in person, with the opportunity to take classes virtually. The school maintains a vibrant year-round schedule, including a 6-week summer session featuring individual lessons and camps. Students regularly achieve recognition in prestigious programs, with many joining the Philadelphia Sinfonia and Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and participating in PMEA Band, Choral, and Orchestra festivals.

Community engagement remains central to CMS' mission. Through partnerships with organizations like the Elmwood Park Zoo, Berks Jazz Fest, Steel River Playhouse, and various local institutions, CMS hosted over 50 free concerts and events, reaching more than 4,500 community members in FY24. These partnerships have created performance opportunities for school-age and adult students and ensembles.

Finally, the newly established Junior Board, comprised of students and alumni below 18 years of age, has been active in community outreach, leading performances at senior centers and developing peer education initiatives such as musical story hours, musical petting zoos, and educational displays about musical genres and history.



## Delaware Symphony Orchestra

The **Delaware Symphony Orchestra** (DSO) delivered a vibrant and impactful 2023-24 season, performing in diverse venues across the region, including The Grand Opera House, Cape Henlopen High School, and the Hotel du Pont. The season showcased a series of captivating programs such as *Sky, Sea, and Rhapsody*, *¡Música Bravo!*, *From Home to Rome*, *Holidays at the Hotel*, and *Music of the African Diaspora*.

Education remained a cornerstone of DSO's mission, with a strong emphasis on serving Title 1 schools. Specialized concerts for elementary and middle school students included the standout production *Migrations in Rhythm: Concerto for Beatbox and Rhyme*. This innovative program, performed multiple times in Wilmington and Dover, seamlessly blended classical music with beatboxing and spoken word while celebrating musical traditions from African, Irish, Brazilian, and Cuban cultures. To deepen the educational experience, DSO provided educators with comprehensive lesson materials, introducing students to symphonic instruments and musical styles ahead of the performances.

Expanding its community outreach, DSO launched free concerts at Howard High School of Technology and Christina Cultural Arts Center. Beyond performances, the orchestra extended its educational efforts through masterclasses led by DSO musicians, guest conductors, and artists at Cab Calloway School of the Arts and The Music School of Delaware. Collaborations with organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware, Christina Cultural Arts Center, Newark Senior Center, and the YMCA of Delaware further enriched the orchestra's outreach, offering additional programs and interactive Q&A sessions to inspire and engage the community.

## NEWS & INFORMATION

### Event Calendar - New Music USA

Share your event with New Music USA and their subscribers! Check out [their event calendar](#) and share your performances by the last day of every month. The calendar is sent to more than 22,000 of New Music USA's subscribers.

### Seals of Transparency and Demographics via Candid

We encourage grantees to complete their GuideStar profiles, including sharing information about their Board and staff demographics. By doing so, you can receive a [Seal of Transparency](#), thus sharing your story and elevating your work for potential funders. Small

nonprofits can also earn free access to the Foundation Directory Essential (a searchable database of funders) for a year. You can learn about the Seals of Transparency program by visiting the Candid website (link above). Contact Abby at [arolland@presserfoundation.org](mailto:arolland@presserfoundation.org) if you have any questions about the Foundation's involvement with Candid.

## Social Media Series - Undergraduate Scholar Award

In November, the Foundation spotlighted 4 Presser Scholars each Friday: Jahnvi Madan of New England Conservatory, Alex Polidoro of Immaculata University, Avery Robinson of Xavier University of Louisiana, and Josiah Garza of the University of Texas at Austin. Check out the Foundation's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) to look back over the series and learn more about these amazing young musicians!

## Blog Posts & Newsletter

**Guest Blog Post:** Your organization can submit a guest blog post about your efforts and receive an unrestricted honorarium! Read the guest blog post guidelines on our website and a guest blog post submission from [Music for Everyone](#).

**Grantee Blog Post & Newsletter Feature:** The Foundation may also reach out to feature your organization based on information from your most recent grant follow-up report. Foundation staff will write the feature and share a draft with you before publication. Check out a recent post about [The Georgia E. Gregory Interdenominational School of Music](#).

## Board & Staff Updates

### *Graduate Music Fellow Daniel Jackson*

"It has been four months since I began my role as a Presser Fellow. During this time, I have gained invaluable insights by observing the Foundation's inner workings and experiencing the musical offerings of the Greater Philadelphia area. As a music educator with aspirations to develop nonprofit and professional music organizations, this experience in philanthropy has deepened my understanding of development, strategic planning, promising practices in fundraising, and the importance of DEI in organizational growth strategies.

This experience has prompted me to critically examine the role of music education and professional music offerings in our current environment and the potential influences of philanthropic organizations on their growth. These critical exercises often inform the blog posts I provide for the organization.

Additionally, I have greatly enjoyed observing various music organizations in the region. I've experienced multiple styles and genres of professional performance ensembles and community-based music organizations. I look forward to continuing my collaboration with the dedicated staff of The Presser Foundation and exploring more organizations supported by its philanthropic efforts."



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