



THE PRESSER FOUNDATION GRADUATE MUSIC FELLOWSHIP

The Presser Foundation, a private, charitable foundation, was formally established in 1939 under various deeds of trust of the late Theodore Presser. The Foundation supports music education and philanthropy, providing funding to further the cause of music both nationally and locally in the Greater Philadelphia Area. The Presser Foundation funds music presenting, music performing, and music educating organizations.

The Presser Foundation believes that equitable access to all musical experiences transforms communities and fosters connection, well-being, and joy. Knowing that the power of music transcends words and speaks directly to the human experience, we understand how vitally important it is to renounce social and cultural injustices, to fight for social justice, and to work vigorously for a more humane and inclusive future. Music provides one of the strongest and most fertile platforms for accomplishing this mission, and we encourage everyone, including our grantees, their audiences, and their beneficiaries, to join us in this essential effort.

Fellowship Description

The Presser Foundation seeks a graduate student with significant music experience to serve as a Graduate Music Fellow for a 10-month Fellowship during the 2026-27 academic year (approximately August 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027). The Fellow must be enrolled in their academic program during the duration of the Fellowship. The Fellow will attend performances and programs by grantee music organizations, write about each one of these programs and performances for the Foundation's social media and blog platforms, participate in the grantmaking process, and collaborate with the team at The Presser Foundation. They form an important member of the Foundation's team in attending/participating on behalf and amplifying the work of the Foundation's grantees. The Fellow will also have the opportunity during the Fellowship to engage and network with the Trustees and Committee Members of the Foundation. The Foundation seeks applicants who will bring varied viewpoints and experiences.

Fellowship Duties and Responsibilities

- Attend 1-2 performances and/or programs (in-person and digital) per week across music genres and traditions.
- Write one blog post monthly about performances, music programs, interviews*, and other music-related stories.
- Contribute to the Foundation's communications and social media plan with 4-6 monthly social media posts.
- Share perspective on grantees and insights into the Greater Philadelphia music community in staff, Committee, and Board of Trustee meetings.

**Conduct interviews with relevant parties associated with the performance or program depending on circumstances and situations.*

Requirements

- Graduate student studying music and/or music-related disciplines
- Passion for music organizations and listening to music performances
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Commitment of approximately 10 hours per week attending performances and meetings (in the office, virtually, and/or on site)
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
- Grantee music organizations are located within a 75-mile radius of Center City Philadelphia. The Fellow must be able to attend performances and programs across this geographic area.
- The Foundation is responsible for the cost of tickets for all attended performances. (This does not include fundraising events.) The Fellow will be reimbursed for pre-approved transportation expenses. Accommodations will be made for travel time on an as-needed basis.

Benefits

- Learning outcomes include deepening knowledge in the field of music, enhancing writing skills, and fostering professional growth.
- Practical experience listening to and writing about musical performances and programs.
- Exposure to refining processes and documents.
- Experience as a vital member of a small-staffed, arts-focused nonprofit organization.
- Skills developed in sharing important and relevant points to inform an organization's grantmaking processes and practices.
- Opportunities for mentoring relationships and networking within the Greater Philadelphia music community are available.
- A dedicated workspace is provided in The Presser Foundation office.
- Flexible schedule
- A \$18,000 stipend is to be paid throughout Fellowship monthly via the payroll system.
- Official recognition as "The Presser Foundation Graduate Music Fellow, 2026-27"

Conditions

- Fellowship will take place from August 2026 to April 2027.
- Fellow should be enrolled in their academic program for the entirety of the Fellowship.
- We cannot guarantee that grantee organizations will have accommodations for people of all abilities. The Foundation will work with the Fellow to figure out accommodations as needed.
- The Presser Foundation has an office in the Chestnut Hill neighborhood of Philadelphia on Germantown Avenue (accessible by SEPTA bus and regional rail). Due to the collaborative nature of this work, the Fellow will be expected to spend weekly time in the office.

To Apply

Send cover letter, resume, and a writing sample to Abby Rolland at arolland@presserfoundation.org with "Graduate Music Fellowship" in the subject line no later than March 1, 2026.