Selected Funding Resources for Composers

Grants to fund commissions, performances, recordings, residencies, study, creative time, and community engagement activities

Compiled by the Music Entrepreneurship & Career Center, Updated Feb. 2016

**Aaron Copland Fund for Music**

**Description:** Three grant programs to support contemporary American music: funds to record, perform, and facilitate presentation.

**Deadlines:** Recording TBA; Performing Ensembles June 30; Supplemental TBA.

**Amounts:** Up to $20,000.

**Eligibility:** Non-profit and fiscally sponsored organizations. Performing ensembles must have at least a 2-year history and a demonstrated commitment to new American music. Students and non-professional musicians not eligible.

**Application:** See site for details.

**Beebe Fund**

**Description:** Funding for musicians to pursue advanced study abroad, usually in Europe.

**Deadline:** mid-December

**Amount:** $22,000 (3-5 grants per year)

**Eligibility:** Early-career musician based in the U.S., under 30 years of age.

**Application:** Submit application, academic transcripts, at least two letters of recommendation. After first round of review, selected applicants send CDs and scores; finalists travel to Boston for live auditions.

**American Composers Forum**

**Description:** Approx. 10 programs that support composers and fund community outreach. Many awards limited to composers residing in Minnesota.

**Deadlines:** See site.

**Jerome Fund for New Music**

**Description:** Supports the creation of new musical works in all genres by emerging composers, improvisers, and sound artists.

**Deadline:** Aug. or Sept.

**Amount:** Up to $7,000 for commissioning fee; $1,500 available for project development.

**Eligibility:** Emerging composers living in New York City or Minnesota who collaborate with an ensemble or a venue to present their work.

**Application:** Online application, personal statement, description of proposed composition, bio, two work samples, letter of commitment from performing ensemble.

**Chamber Music America: Classical Commissioning Program**

**Description:** Funding for CMA member ensembles and presenters to commission chamber works.

**Deadline:** early April. **Amount:** $5K- $20K

**Eligibility:** Ensembles: based in the US, committed to contemporary and/or world music, CMA members. Composers: US citizens or permanent residents. Works previously written or for multimedia not eligible.

**Application:** Online application (the ensemble applies), sample recordings of performances by the ensemble, letters of intent.
Composers and Schools in Concert Grants
Description: Funding for workshops and commissions.
Deadline: Rolling. Amount: $200 - $1,500
Eligibility: Composers or performers in collaboration with composers.
Application: Online application with information about workshop and lesson plan, if appropriate.

Fromm Music Foundation
Description: Commissions approximately 12 composers annually via competitive application; sponsors new music concerts.
Deadline: June 1 annually
Details: See site.

Guggenheim Foundation Grants
Description: Provides funding for prominent composers to create new works.
Deadline: September
Amount: Varies. Average in 2008 was $43,200
Eligibility: American or Canadian composers
Application: Online application with up to 3 recordings & scores, 4 reference letters.

Koussevitzky Foundation Grants
Description: Funds for reputable chamber groups and orchestras with histories for performing new music to commission works.
Deadline: March
Amount: Chamber works: $12,500-$17,500. Orchestral works: Up to $20,000.
Eligibility: Broad. US citizenship not required, nor does a group need to be based in the US.
Application: Application form plus supporting materials. See guidelines.

Md State Arts Council: Individual Artist Award
Description: Grants offered for different artistic disciplines on a 3-year rotation; composition is included in two of those years.
Deadline: July. Amount: $1,000 - $6,000
Eligibility: Maryland resident who is not a student. Work samples must be < 3 years old.
Application: See site.

Nadia and Lili Boulanger International Centre
Description: Provides grants for composers and performers to study in France
Deadline: June 30 (apply 2 years in advance)
Amount: Variable, depending on need
Eligibility: Must be 20-32 years old and plan to study with a teacher in France
Application: Application form, CV, copy of ID, description of study plan, written agreement from teacher in France, three references, at least one score with recording.

New Music USA Project Grants
Description: Offsets costs associated with creating, recording, commissioning, performing, and presenting new music. Also supports community engagement.
Deadline: Twice yearly: November & April.
Amount: Total grant budget exceeds $600,000. Awards range from $250-$15,000.
Eligibility: US citizens and foreign-born composers who are primarily active in the US.
Application: Create project page on site.

New Music USA: Music Alive
Description: Funding to support “composer-in-residence positions with orchestral ensembles.” See site for details.

New Music USA: Cary New Music Fund
Description: Provides grants to small new music ensembles and organizations operating in the five boroughs of New York City.
Deadline: February. Amount: $3,000-$15,000.
Eligibility: Organizations must be based in NYC and in operation for three or more years. See site for additional requirements.
Application: Online application form.
More Listings of Funding Resources

**Bridge Database.** Search for grants, fellowships, competitions, and more.

**The Musician's Way Resources for Grantseekers.** Links to grant directories, community foundation locators, grant-writing tutorials, and more.

**Society of Composers, Inc.** Known as SCION, the SCI Opportunity Newsletter lists competitions, grants, and commissions available to composers sorted by deadline. Membership required.

**New York Foundation for the Arts Source.** Click “discipline”; then, in the discipline dropdown select “Music”; choose subdiscipline “Music, All”; choose secondary discipline “Composers.”

*For listings of artist residency programs, see the resources on the MECC Opportunity Search page.*