

New Music Solidarity Fund

An artist-led initiative that aims to grant emergency funding to musicians impacted by COVID-19

Eligibility:

1. Are you a musician working in new, creative, experimental or improvised music and are you a freelance artist, i.e., non-salaried by an institution?
2. Have you had a COVID-19 related cancelation of project(s)/performance(s) involving music by a living composer?
3. Is your immediate livelihood threatened by these cancelations?
4. Did you read the FAQs?

If you answered yes to all four of these questions, you are eligible to apply.

Application Questions (to be answered online [here](#)):

1. Your name
2. Your email address
3. Please provide a link to your website and/or your bio (500 words or less).
4. Please tell us about the concert/s that were canceled. Include date/s, venue/s, and program/repertoire. If available, include a URL or a brief description of the canceled event(s).
5. Optional Question: To help us gauge the impact of COVID-19 on the new music community, can you let us know how much you lost as a result of the cancelations? This information will also be kept confidential.

All information will be kept confidential.

FAQs:

Q: How big are the grant awards?

A: Awards of \$500 will be made to those who meet the eligibility criteria on a first-come basis.

Q: How do you define “living composer”? What if I wrote the piece I was performing? What if I’m an improviser?

A: As long as the creator of the musical work is alive, you are eligible. Improvisers are absolutely eligible.

Q: Does Jazz count as improvised music in this case?

A: If you consider what you do to be new music, and if it is created by living artists, yes.

Q: I do installation / sound art work. Am I eligible?

A: Yes.

Q: Do I qualify if I do a lot of new music, but also other kinds of music?

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A: As long as you had a new-music related cancelation due to COVID-19 and you do not have a salaried position, you are eligible to apply, whether or not you play other kinds of music as well. This fund is designed specifically to help people working with living composers and original music who are in financial need.

Q: What if I often work in / with new music, but had no new music projects canceled in the COVID-19 period yet?

A: Since a new-music related cancelation is one of the main eligibility criteria for this fund, you would not be eligible to apply.

Q: I do a lot of freelance work, but I also have a salaried position. Am I eligible?

A: No. Because we want these resources to reach the people who are most in need, the fund isn't available to people with salaried positions.

Q: Who decides on whether the grants are given?

A: New Music USA Staff will be screening applications for eligibility on a first come first serve basis. New Music USA is not judging the nature of the concerts canceled or the music that would have been performed. This is purely based on financial need, and grants will be given on a first-come, first-served basis as funds last.

Q: Do I have to provide proof of canceled engagement?

A: If you can provide a URL for your canceled engagement, this will strengthen your case. In any event, please tell us about what you do, because we want to understand better how this affects our community.

Q: Are there any age limitations?

A: No.

Q: Is there an income cap?

A: No, but if you feel like you make too much to apply for a fund like this, you probably shouldn't. We want the resources to be available to those who need them most at this time.

Q: I have an adjunct teaching position. Does that count as a salaried position?

A: If you are still receiving regular paychecks for any professional activity, we consider it a salaried position.

Q: I've applied for unemployment from the state. Am I eligible?

A: If you believe any other assistance will materialize in order to solve your immediate financial need, please consider not applying so others with more immediate needs and/or less alternative resources can get funded. Please consult the expanded unemployment insurance eligibility, which covers 1099 employees (independent contractors) under the most recent federal stimulus bill. See for example:

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<https://www.nelp.org/publication/unemployment-insurance-provisions-coronavirus-aid-relief-economic-security-cares-act/>

And <https://nwu.org/cares-act-pandemic-unemployment-assistance-for-freelancers/>

Q: Is this a merit-based award? Will I be judged on the quality of my work?

A: No. This is a needs-based assistance grant.

Q: Will the names of the recipients be made public?

A: We will never make names of recipients public without their direct consent.

Q: I know that you're keeping the names of applicants confidential, but I would like to tell some people that I've applied. Do you have any objection to me sharing this publicly?

A: We have no objection whatsoever! We will not share the names of any applicants, but we are happy for applicants to be as public as they would like. We do not believe there should be any stigma associated with needing money in this difficult time.

Q: My partner/friend/stand-partner is in desperate need of this money, but would be ashamed to ask for it themselves. Can I apply on behalf of another person?

A: Please encourage them to apply, and tell them that nobody apart from New Music USA staff will know that they have applied. The names of those who applied for or received funds will never be made public without the direct consent of the applicant. But we do need applicants to submit requests for themselves only.

Q: I don't need the money now, but looking ahead a few months, I have no work through November. Am I eligible?

A: The purpose of this fund is to help you with any hardship you might be facing either now or imminently. If you have the means to support yourself for the time being, we would discourage you from applying now so we can help those in immediate need.

Q: I'm not an American citizen, can I apply? What about waiting for the Green-card, O-1 visa, B-1 visa...

A: As long as you are a U.S.-based artist, you are eligible to apply.

Q: If I get a grant, how quickly do I get the money?

A: Pending the volume of requests and funding available we anticipate funds being disbursed within 3 weeks from the time of submitting.

Q: How will I receive the money?

A: New Music USA will collect your bank details via DocuSign and then you will receive the funding via a direct bank transfer.

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Q: Can I apply more than once?

A: We discourage multiple applications so we can help as many artists as possible.

Q: Do I need to send any reports or follow up in any way if I receive a grant?

A: No. We trust you and want you to focus on making your work and living your life, not reporting on it.