New Music Solidarity Fund raises $270,000

$500 emergency grants now available to performers of music by living composers impacted by COVID-19 cancelations

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The New Music Solidarity Fund, an initiative announced last week that aims to grant emergency funding to musicians impacted by COVID-19, has raised $270,000. Due to the generosity of artists, arts leaders, professors, and foundations, the fund has doubled in the week since it was announced. The New Music Solidarity Fund will be administered through New Music USA, and all donations are fully tax-deductible through New Music USA’s 501c3 status. The fund is accessible here and will run until April 30.

The New Music Solidarity Fund will distribute at least 540 $500 emergency assistance grants. Any musician who has had a project involving a living composer canceled because of the pandemic is invited to apply. The New Music Solidarity Fund opens to applicants today, and will run until April 30. Grants will be available on a first-come, first-served basis as funds last.

The New Music Solidarity Fund was made possible through the collective organizational efforts of
Marcos Balter, Julia Bullock, Claire Chase, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Du Yun, Judd Greenstein, Reena Esmail, Nico Muhly, Andrew Norman, Christian Reif, Christopher Rountree, Caroline Shaw, Conrad Tao, and Seth Parker Woods. These artists, along with other artistic and administrative colleagues in the field, sought to extend help to less-secure individuals within their community. Beyond this emergency bridge fund, the organizers and contributors hope to lay the grounds for a new financial and cultural framework that ensures the stability of musicians in the new music scene.

“Quarantine has served as a powerful reminder of how deeply collaborative music making is and must be,” says vocalist Anthony Roth Costanzo. “Working with living composers and creating new modalities of expression for a live audience has generated some of the most collaborative experiences of my life. It’s thrilling to work with this whole community of artists and makers to support one another in this crucial way during this harrowing time.”

“In this deep crisis is also an incredible opportunity,” says pianist and composer Reena Esmail. “Artists are some of the most creative, adaptive thinkers in our society, and they are now finding themselves with more time to think creatively than ever before. Supporting artists at this critical time and making sure their basic needs are met allows artists to perform their civic duty: to think broadly and creatively about the world we will find on the other side of this pandemic, and to pioneer new, generative ways forward together.”

“With this historic global shift come challenges and change,” says cellist Seth Parker Woods. “In the months, weeks, and days since the discovery and large-scale impact of COVID-19, we have seen unprecedented closures, cancelations, and loss. The initiation of the New Music Solidarity Fund was created to uphold our community in the midst of very uncertain times, which has exposed just how fragile and flawed the current business and ethics model is for the arts. The musicians, composers, creators, and storytellers spend their lives honing their craft and sharing some of their most vulnerable sides for the world to see, so it is only right that we band together to insure that we may all come out of this alive and ready to share again soon. It’s been thrilling to call on our friends and colleagues of new music to create this fund, and the outpouring of support and love has given me a deeper sense of hope as we tread these uncharted waters.”

“I am deeply moved by the vast and speedy response within our community,” says composer Du Yun. “Since January, my heart began to ache. But time and again, I know there is help and hope. In times like this, we demonstrate, once again, our strongest power and resilience. In times like this, when all else is failing and seems to fall apart, we have each other’s back. When words begin to pale, our actions stand strong. How lucky we are connected by our convictions and passions in life. Thank you, for all you do.”

To date, the following people’s donations comprise the fund: Mark Adamo and John Corigliano, John Adams and Deborah O’Grady, Sam Adams, Judah Adashi, Christopher Adler, Behrooz Afghahi, Matt Albert, Patricia Alessandrini, David Allen, Sarah Angello, Julia Antonatos, Ingrid Arauco, Arcade Fire, Megan Arns, Matthew Aucoin, Emanuel Ax, Luciano Azizgotti, Nate Bachhuber, Lina Bahn, Arlene Bailey, Allison Balcetis, Katherine Balch, Doug Balliett, Marcos Balter, Eliza Bangert, Laura Barger, Carol Barnett, Jean-Baptiste Barrière, Jeremy Barth, Brandon Barton, Jamie Barton, Robert Beaser, Richard Beaudoin, Lembt Beecher, Nicole Belmont, Nick Bentz, Ryan Beppel, Paul Berkolds, Amanda Berlind, Derek Bermel, Whit Bernard, Lauren Bernofsky, Oscar Bettison, Bob and Marti Beyer, Gregory Beyer, Jean-David Beyer, Ranjit Bhatnagar, Jon Bisesi, Jonathan Biss, David Bither, David Bloom, Judith Boomer, Leni Boorstin, Deborah Borda, Andrew Boscardin, Colleen Brannen, Martin Bresnick, J’nai Bridges, Nicholas Britell, Randolph Brockman, Fred Bronstein, Catherine Brookman, Carol Brown, Eliza Brown, Jennie Brown, Silas Brown, Steven Bryant, Julia Bullock, Barbara Burch, William Butler, Donato Cabrera, Reba Cafarelli, Jay Campbell, Daniela Candillari, Karina Canellakis, Julia Carnahan, Jacqui Carrasco, Courtenay Casey, Aaron Cassidy, Christopher Cerrone, Yeji and Eric Cha-Beach, Raven Chacon, Deirdre Chadwick, Wayla Chambo, Yu-Hui Chang, Eric Chasalow, Claire Chase, David Chase,
Marcos, et al), Mathew Rosenblum, James Rosenfield, Alex Ross, John Rot, Taylor Rothenberg-Manley, Christopher Rountree, Hannah Rubashkin, Joshua Rubin, Robin Rue, Anthony Ruth, Norman Ryan, Kaija Saariaho, Deborah Sagner, Jane M Hussein Saks, Richard David Salvage, Barry and Nancy Sanders, Kyle Sanna, Annie Saunders, Gregg Schaufeld, Steven and Brenda Schick, Carl Schimmel, Edward Schocker, Adam and Janine Schoenberg, Schubert Club (in honor of Kevin Puts and the Miró Quartet), Sarah Schultz, Michael Schumacher, Mary Ellen Scott, Gerald Seixas, Peter Sellars, Joey Sellers (for Bolt Spillman), Yuval Sharon, Caroline Shaw, Wallace Shawn, Kate Sheeran, Sarah Shellman, Sean Shepherd, Martin Sher, Nadia Shpachenko, Anne Shreffler, Jen Shyu, Ron Silver, Rebecca Silverman, Emily Skidmore, Jessica Slaven and Ryan Streber, Sarah Small, Melissa and David Smey, Chad Smith, Dan Smith, David Smooke, Sarah Kirkland Snider and Steven Mackey, Alex Somers, Kate Soper, Gregory Spears, Chris Stark, Rand Steiger, Jim Stephenson, Michael Stern, William Sterner, Matt Stiens, Elisabeth Stimpert, Susan Stodolsky, Ingrid Stölzel, Nathaniel Stookey, Jill Strominger, Nathan J. Stumpff, Caitlin Sullivan, Stella Sung, John Supko, Rita Sussman, Lawrence Sutton, Kirsten Swanson, Julia Tai, Conrad Tao, Todd Tarantino, Cyndi Tate, Paul Taub, Maria Tegzes, Neil Tesser, Christopher Theofanidis, Michiko Theurer, Hans Thomalla, Joshua Thomas, Frank Ticheli, Kyle Tieman-Strauss, Michael Tilson Thomas, Davóne Tines (for Michelle Antoinette Tines Spencer), Devon Tipp, Limor Tomer, Ceiri Torjussen, Joan Tower, Thomas-How Tsang, Ming Tsu, Hans Tutschku, Dmitri Tymoczko, Ken Ueno, Kojiro Umezaki, Chinary and Susan Ung, Paul Upham, William Upham, Jimmy Van Bramer, Caleb van der Swaagh, Jorge Variego, Paul Vazquez, Kirsten VoUJness, Aleksandra Vrebalov, Melinda Wagner, Joe and Nancy Walker, Larry Wallach, David Walsh, Philip Webb, Steven Weimer, Gail Wein, Alex Weiser, Marc Weiss (for Floyd Cardoz), Brad Wells, Drew Whiting, Tyler Whitmer, Michi Wiancko, Vina Williams (for Conrad Tao), Scott Winship, Conrad Winslow, Nina Wise, Gernot Wolfgang, Shai Woliner, Johnna Wu, Scott and Karen Wylie, Hanako Yamaguchi, Lidiya Yankovskaya, Adi Yeshaya, Bryan Young, James Young, Nina C. Young, the Yvar Mikhashoff Trust for New Music, Pamela Z, Rachel Z, Lawrence Zbikowski, Chen Zhao, Donna Ziel, Julio Zúñiga, 83 anonymous donors... and counting.

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