



Women's Philharmonic Advocacy

Since 2008: demanding equity for women composers and celebrating the legacy of The Women's Philharmonic (1980–2004)

2023 Performance Grants Information

Background

Women's Philharmonic Advocacy has been proud to provide Performance Grants in the U.S. since 2012, helping hundreds of community, professional, and youth orchestras across the country perform works by historic and contemporary women composers. The impact of these grants has been heard from coast to coast, by small and large ensembles, in rural and urban communities, in live, broadcast, and streamed performances. The WPA Performance Grants program was substantially revised in 2022 to focus on impacting long-term programming decisions in American orchestral concert programming to more accurately resemble the actual diversity found within the historical and contemporary makeup of western art music.

Purpose

The purpose of the revised WPA Performance Grants program is to identify and facilitate opportunities for broader representation and inclusion in orchestral programming through building relationships with ensembles throughout multiple concert seasons. Grants will be awarded annually for up to three years to a maximum of five ensembles, each of whom must commit to working in partnership with WPA to develop an inclusive programming model that will carry throughout the commitment of the grant period and beyond. We will also work together to develop educational opportunities for audiences and the larger community to learn about the often-ignored composers and their music that will be featured.

Criteria and Process

Each applicant ensemble for the program must be a community, professional, or youth orchestra located in the United States that seeks to expand its repertoire, attract wider audiences, include engaging educational programming, and be a positive model of change in the classical music world. Ensembles must qualify as a nonprofit or other tax-exempt organization (e.g., associated with a school); grant funds cannot be awarded to individuals. In addition, applicant ensembles must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, inclusion, and representation of music composed by women (from a range of time periods), and other marginalized groups (specifically racial and ethnic minorities) and dedication to expanding the impact of that music. Further, to commit to seeking out unjustly neglected and overlooked repertoire and to bring it to new audiences.

- Demonstrated artistic excellence in performance (recent audio or video samples are required).
- Commitment to a three-year partnership with Women’s Philharmonic Advocacy representatives to develop short- and long-term goals for lasting, systemic changes within their individual organizations to address the inequities that have historically been synonymous with classical music programming.

To apply, download the Application Form found under the Grants tab on wophil.org. The form is a fillable Word document. Answer all questions completely and clearly. Items marked with an asterisk are required and incomplete applications will not be considered so make sure you have provided the information requested. When you have completed the application, submit it online using the form found at wophil.org/grants. The deadline for submission is **November 3, 2023**.

The total award of the grant for each winning ensemble will be \$5,000, distributed as follows:

First Year: \$1,000

Second Year: \$1,500

Third Year: \$2,500

Failure to meet outlined and agreed upon objectives at any point will mean the forfeiture of future payments.

Applications will be available by September of 2023 with decisions announced in early 2024. The grants for this period will encompass the performance years: 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027. The first installment of grant funding will be released in early 2024 to support programming for the 2024-2025 season. For questions, please contact the grants administrator, Kaia Skaggs, at grants@wophil.org.