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The 2020 New Music USA Project Grant Awards

New Music USA grants \$502,700 to 392 artists and organizations working at the forefront of music creation, performance, and recording.



New York, NY (July 9, 2020) - **New Music USA** is pleased to announce the selection of **110 projects** involving **392 creators and artists** for the **tenth round of New Music USA Project Grants**. These projects demonstrate the imaginative, diverse, and high-quality work that New Music USA is dedicated to supporting.

Totaling \$502,700 in funding, this year's grants support new American music projects in 26 states. The 110 awarded projects include a wide range of activities and events involving new music as a central

element; these projects involve collaborations in dance, theater, opera, and the visual arts. 54% of the 2020 Project Grant participants are people of color and 58% are women.

“We’re inspired and humbled to be reminded of the resilience and imagination of the new music community through this bold list of projects planned for 2021 and beyond. In spite of the challenges faced over the past four months, this year’s Project Grant recipients are determined to keep planning ahead, with many sustaining their focus on the creation of new work and positioning social justice at the heart of their creative practice. I look forward to experiencing the music of the diverse artists and practitioners involved and to following the realization of these projects next year throughout the United States,” said **Vanessa Reed**, New Music USA’s CEO & President.

Since New Music USA’s Project Grants launched in October 2013, the organization has distributed \$3,906,648 in support of 805 projects. Of these projects, 58% were for the creation of new work.

New Music USA is committed to making the grant program equitable, by removing barriers in the application process and by consistently elevating all artists and organizations who receive our support. Project Grants applicants are given simple guidelines and are asked to supply a brief project description and work samples.

The Project Grants peer review process reflects ongoing efforts to dismantle bias. For this tenth round of project grants, which attracted over 1200 applications, New Music USA engaged 48 artists, composers, musicians, and administrators, building a panel formed of 56% women and 44% people of color, working from locations around the country. [Read more](#) about the panelist criteria for Project Grants.

Organizations & Performance Groups

Project Grant recipients are listed alphabetically by state, organization name, and project title:

Organization	Project Title	City	State
Uncommon Music Festival	<i>Conversations with Whales</i>	Sitka	AK
Piano on the Rocks International Festival	<i>Their Own Voices: Stories of Migrant Women</i>	Sedona	AZ
Berkeley Symphony	<i>Berkeley Symphony 50th Anniversary Fanfare</i>	Berkeley	CA
Kitka, Inc.	<i>BABA</i>	Berkeley	CA
Brightwork newmusic	<i>Project Beacon High School Composer Initiative</i>	Los Angeles	CA
The Industry	<i>Sweet Land</i>	Los Angeles	CA
Real Magic	<i>Iphigenia</i>	Multicity Tour	CA
Alonzo King LINES Ballet	<i>Seven Seas</i>	San Francisco	CA
California Symphony	<i>CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY YOUNG AMERICAN COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE 2020-2021</i>	Walnut Creek	CA
Connecticut Summerfest, Inc.	<i>Connecticut Summerfest 2020</i>	West Hartford	CT
Beaches Fine Arts Series	<i>“The River” with ETHEL & Robert Mirabal, a cross-cultural concert & educational outreach experience</i>	Jacksonville Beach	FL
Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra	<i>PULSE, a memorial</i>	Orlando	FL
Chicago Jazz Philharmonic	<i>Chicago Immigrant Stories III</i>	Chicago	IL
Experimental Sound Studio	<i>Douglas R. Ewart: Expressions</i>	Chicago	IL
Lynx	<i>Autism Advocacy Series: Chicago Premiere Production</i>	Chicago	IL

Organization	Project Title	City	State
The Vibraphone Project	<i>Contributions to the Vibraphone: Pamela Z and Robert Honstein</i>	Indianapolis	IN
People of Earth	<i>Dafnis Prieto Concerto for People of Earth and String Orchestra</i>	Louisville	KY
New Orleans Airlift	<i>Wall Songs, Freedom Portraits</i>	New Orleans	LA
Castle of our Skins	<i>Sound & Appliqué Commissions</i>	Boston	MA
Lorelei Ensemble	<i>BEAUFORT SCALES: a new work by Christopher Cerrone</i>	Boston	MA
Third Sound	<i>Vox Innocentes</i>	Boston	MA
Bang on a Can	<i>Bang on a Can's LOUD Weekend</i>	North Adams	MA
Dinosaur Annex Music Ensemble	<i>Hub of the Musiverse 2: Journeys and Commentaries</i>	Watertown	MA
LaneCoArts	<i>one more dream</i>	Portland	ME
Detroit Composers' Project	<i>Detroit Composers' Project: Songs & Stories</i>	Detroit	MI
Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival	<i>2020 Vision</i>	Detroit	MI
New Music Detroit	<i>Quién Como Tú (Who Like You)</i>	Detroit	MI
113	<i>4th Annual Twin Cities New Music Festival</i>	Saint Paul	MN
IMI Chamber Players	<i>Melanie Knolls Project</i>	Saint Louis	MO
Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center	<i>The Kepler Quartet performs the music of Ben Johnston</i>	Asheville	NC
Omaha Under the Radar	<i>Omaha Under the Radar 2020</i>	Omaha	NE
Nimbus Dance	<i>Raucous Caucus Tango</i>	Jersey City	NJ
New Jersey Youth Symphony	<i>La Frontera: Stories of Migration in Movement</i>	New Providence	NJ
Albany Symphony	<i>Trailblaze NY New Music Festival</i>	Albany	NY
Brooklyn Youth Chorus	<i>she is called</i>	Brooklyn	NY
Mark Morris Dance Group	<i>Community Engagement for Pepperland</i>	Brooklyn	NY
Pathos Trio	<i>When Dark Sounds and Classical Music Collide: New Music For Percussion and Piano by Pathos Trio</i>	Brooklyn	NY
Roulette Intermedium	<i>Darius Jones // For The People - Statues: Legacy of Sacrifice</i>	Brooklyn	NY
The American Opera Project	<i>The Night Falls - a dance opera</i>	Brooklyn	NY
Brooklyn Raga Massive	<i>RAGMALA: BROOKLYN RAGA MASSIVE & GO: ORGANIC ORCHESTRA</i>	Brooklyn	NY
Music from Copland House	<i>CULTIVATE 2020 emerging composers institute</i>	Cortlandt Manor	NY
Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, Inc.	<i>Caramoor presents a free outdoor performance of Michael Gordon's Field of Vision with Bang on a Can</i>	Katonah	NY
Momenta Quartet	<i>Hallelujah Anyhow: The Premiere Recording of Alvin Singleton's String Quartets</i>	Mount Vernon	NY
Bridge Records	<i>George Crumb: Metamorphoses, Book 2</i>	New Rochelle	NY
7NMS: Marjani Forte-Saunders and Everett Saunders	<i>A Prophet's Tale: A Portrait of the Lyricist</i>	New York	NY
Experiments in Opera	<i>Everything For Dawn</i>	New York	NY
Five Boroughs Music Festival	<i>Terra Nova</i>	New York	NY
Jody Oberfelder Projects	<i>Rube Goldberg Variations</i>	New York	NY
Kyle Abraham / Abraham. In. Motion, Inc.	<i>Untitled Commission for Mostly Mozart Festival</i>	New York	NY
New York Youth Symphony	<i>NY Youth Symphony</i>	New York	NY

Organization	Project Title	City	State
	<i>First Music Commissions 2020/21</i>		
Parsons Dance	<i>New Music by Cristina Spinei for New Dance by Chanel daSilva</i>	New York	NY
Periapsis Music and Dance	<i>The Rope and the Sea</i>	New York	NY
Peridance Contemporary Dance Company	<i>Oceans at War – Israeli Artists Exploring Conflict</i>	New York	NY
The Dream Unfinished	<i>The Red, White and Blues</i>	New York	NY
The Jazz Gallery	<i>The Jazz Gallery Fellowship 2020</i>	New York	NY
The Wooster Group	<i>THE WOOSTER GROUP: The Mother</i>	New York	NY
Hardedge & DarkMatterHalo	<i>Hardedge with DarkMatterHalo and Wadada Leo Smith: Ankhration</i>	New York	NY
Orpheus Chamber Orchestra	<i>Reimagining Carmen: Courtney Bryan’s Carmen Jazz Suite on Themes by Bizet</i>	New York	NY
Tonalmotion Inc.	<i>Field/Ground - a Liz Gerring & Michael J. Schumacher collaboration</i>	New York	NY
Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning	<i>Downtown International Jazz Festival</i>	Queens	NY
Zohn Collective	<i>Teddy Death</i>	Rochester	NY
Saratoga Performing Arts Center	<i>Energy In All Directions</i>	Saratoga Springs	NY
EMPAC - The Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center at Rensselaer	<i>Paper Pianos World Premiere / Mary Kouyoumdjian + Alarm Will Sound</i>	Troy	NY
Ars Nova Workshop	<i>Axis: Philadelphia</i>	Philadelphia	PA
The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania	<i>Hannibal Lokumbe Commission for Penn Museum Africa Galleries</i>	Philadelphia	PA
Young Women Composers Camp	<i>2020 Young Women Composers Camp</i>	Philadelphia	PA
Community MusicWorks	<i>Music for Refugees in Providence RI</i>	Providence	RI
chatterbird	<i>Mahakala, a Commission by Leila Adu</i>	Nashville	TN
DACAMERA Chamber Music and Jazz	<i>Celebrating 50 Years of the Rothko Chapel</i>	Houston	TX

Individual Artists

Project Grant recipients are listed alphabetically by state, artist last name, and project title:

First Name	Last Name	Project Title	City	State
Anomie	Belle	<i>The Lost Art of Dreaming</i>	San Francisco	CA
Mehmet Ali	Sanlikol	<i>“The Rise Up” featuring NEA Jazz Master Dave Liebman</i>	Boston	MA
Lisa	Cella	<i>The Low Flutes Project</i>	Baltimore	MD
A. Spencer	Barefield	<i>Creative Music at the DIA & Beyond: Celebrating 40 Years of Innovation - Roscoe Mitchell Project</i>	Detroit	MI
Matthew	Coley	<i>Heartland Marimba Quartet Commissions Eight New Works by Female Composers</i>	Minneapolis	MN
Jason	Noer	<i>MIXTAPE 5G: Sounding at the Speed of Movement</i>	Minneapolis	MN
Mary	Prescott	<i>Tida</i>	Minneapolis	MN

First Name	Last Name	Project Title	City	State
Duane	Cyrus	<i>The Resistance Project (Celebrating African Diasporic Women's Activism through Music and Dance)</i>	Greensboro	NC
Netta	Yerushalmy	<i>MOVEMENT</i>	Montclair	NJ
Marisa	Demarco	<i>The Mountains Wore Down To The Valleys</i>	Albuquerque	NM
Olivia	De Prato	<i>I, A.M. - Artist Mother Project</i>	Brooklyn	NY
Jessica	Gaynor	<i>Pack</i>	Brooklyn	NY
Ravish	Momin	<i>Turning Jewels Into Water</i>	Brooklyn	NY
Jamie	Sampson	<i>Women's Strength in Song</i>	Fredonia	NY
Ben	Robinson	<i>Inside the Creative Process</i>	Ithaca	NY
Davalois	Fearon	<i>For C.J.</i>	Manhattan	NY
Susie	Ibarra	<i>Talking Gong</i>	New Paltz	NY
Kyaw Kyaw	Naing	<i>Growing Rhythm</i>	New Paltz	NY
Rez	Abbasi	<i>Blu-Qawwali</i>	New York	NY
David	Bird	<i>The Ambition of Ghosts</i>	New York	NY
Anita	Brown	<i>Honoring the Potters Field for NYC: Hart Island, Bronx, NY</i>	New York	NY
Nathan	Davis	<i>I am the utterance of my name</i>	New York	NY
Jeremy	McQueen	<i>"The W I L D"</i>	New York	NY
Samora	Pinderhughes	<i>GRIEF - a new album by Samora Pinderhughes</i>	New York	NY
Neil	Rolnick	<i>One For The Ages</i>	New York	NY
Elio	Villafranca	<i>DON'T CHANGE MY NAME</i>	New York	NY
Stewart	Wallace	<i>S U P E R M A X</i>	New York	NY
Khadija	Ahmaddiya	<i>The InnerSection</i>	New York	NY
Lindy	Fines	<i>ASSEMBLY</i>	New York	NY
Pavel	Zuštiak	<i>HEBEL</i>	New York	NY
Thomas	Piercy	<i>TOKYO AND NEW YORK : 東京とニューヨーク: MUSIC AND DANCE</i>	New York	NY
Veena	Chandra	<i>Veena Chandra - Indian Classical Sitar and Tsuna Sakamoto - Viola Collaboration</i>	Saratoga Springs	NY
Milica	Paranosic	<i>Penelope and the Geese</i>	Saugerties	NY
Tommie-Waheed	Evans	<i>HOME</i>	Philadelphia	PA
Anthony	Tidd	<i>Seven Souls, or 164 Years</i>	Philadelphia	PA
Steve	Parker	<i>Sound Garden</i>	Austin	TX
Amanda	Ekery	<i>El Paso Jazz Girls Composers</i>	El Paso	TX
Chelsea	de Souza	<i>BLURRED ORIGINS: REDEFINING CULTURE THROUGH MUSIC</i>	Houston	TX
Miki	Sawada	<i>Gather Hear Tour: Utah and Massachusetts</i>	Multicity	UT
Pat	Graney	<i>ATTIC</i>	Seattle	WA
Adam	Rosenblatt	<i>Reclaimed Timber</i>	Seattle	WA

About New Music USA

New Music USA supports the sounds of tomorrow by nurturing the creation, performance, and appreciation of new music for adventurous listeners around the world. We empower and connect US-based music makers, organizations, and audiences by providing funding through our Project Grants; fostering new connections through our programs; deepening knowledge through our online magazine, NewMusicBox; and working as an advocate for the field. New Music USA works in collaboration with its community in response to pressing needs and to amplify the diverse voices of music creators. New Music USA envisions a thriving and equitable ecosystem for new music throughout the United States.