New Music USA has been a guiding light during these trying times by providing support for artists during COVID-19 and beyond. Awarding these grants will have an historical impact on the world as artists continue to create and tell stories of important world impacting events through their art.

Wendell Harrison
Clarinetist and Saxophonist
Creator Development Fund Grantee
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New Music USA's generous support of our project enabled us to bring our dream to life. By giving us the means to workshop our new concerto, we were able to give valuable feedback to the composer so that he could revise the work and further develop it before our world premiere.

“People of Earth
Project Grantee
As I reflect on my second year at New Music USA, I am filled with awe and gratitude for our community of music lovers and artists. Despite the unimaginable challenges and losses brought by the ongoing pandemic, this community continues to demonstrate the importance of creativity and music-making in all of our lives, and its unique contribution to recovery and joy.

In spite of the uncertainty still pervading live performances, over 1,700 music creators, performers and organizations came to us with proposals for how they would keep innovating, presenting music, and inspiring others through their work. Our new Creator Development Fund, which grew from the emergency support we gave directly to artists in 2020, revealed the ongoing importance of bespoke funding for individual creators who are at the heart of everything we do at New Music USA. Our Organizational Development Fund demonstrated our ongoing commitment to those who provide the infrastructure and opportunities which enable our community to flourish across the nation. As we listen and strive to respond to the needs of our community, we see these programs as a partnership with our grantees that will continue to grow and evolve.

This year, we also debuted the New Music Capacity Building Program in New York City, which offers cohort learning, mentorship, and financial support to small, artist-led groups. These groundbreaking organizations drive innovation and have benefited significantly from the tailored support offered through this program. We hope to bring this program to other cities over the next few years.

We continued to strengthen our focus on equity and inclusion by planning new partnerships and programs that prioritize those in the new music community who have had the least access to resources. Our Amplifying Voices and Reel Change programs are expanding as we bring on new funders, partners, and grantees, and we have been planning a new program called Next Jazz Legacy to launch in 2022, in partnership with the Berklee Institute for Jazz and Gender Justice and an advisory board of jazz experts.

I am also proud that we continued to welcome new perspectives to our Board of Directors with the addition of Aja Burrell Wood, Angelica Sanchez, and Joseph Young, while fostering active dialogues and relationships with music creators, artists, practitioners, writers, and organizations through our Program and Advisory Councils, and with the grantees we support. It’s thanks to these people, our talented staff, and our generous supporters that we’ve been able to keep evolving the services that we offer.

I hope you enjoy reading more about this year’s developments in the following pages. By the time this report is published, we will be celebrating our first decade of existence as New Music USA. We can’t wait to celebrate this milestone with all of you while setting our sights forward on all we hope to accomplish in the decade to come.

"... this community continues to demonstrate the importance of creativity and music making in all of our lives and its unique contribution to recovery and joy."
Art is how we make sense of the world around us, and music is one of the most powerful forms of that expressive force. The work of New Music USA is crucial in supporting artists and their works that explore and express our beautiful, complicated, and profound existence.

- Jake Runestad, Conductor, Composer, and New Music USA Program Council Member

By supporting New Music USA, we are giving opportunities to composers and performers to fulfill what is fundamentally in our nature, the desire to create—which then brings communities together and defines our culture.

- Jennifer Choi, Violinist and New Music Connect Donor
2020-2021

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Fear No Music
Without the support of New Music USA, my project never could have happened. It enhanced my confidence and awareness, and it increased my artistic growth. I am incredibly grateful.

Kala Ramnath, Violinist

As part of our response to the pandemic's impact on individual creators, we revised our project grants and introduced the Creator Development Fund. This gave funds to individual music creators who needed support to get to the next stage of their creative practice in the context of the challenging circumstances created by COVID-19.

Our aim was to stimulate creativity and collaboration between music creators and other artists from any discipline or background and to build community in response to the restrictions we are all facing, particularly in the performing arts.
The Creator Development Fund received major support from Howard Gilman Foundation, The Amphion Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Cheswatyr Foundation, The ASCAP Foundation, and BMI Foundation. This program is funded in part by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of The Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and with support from The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and the Rodgers and Hammerstein Foundation.

Tomeka Reid
CREATORS | 2021

Alicia Waller
New York, NY

Angélica Negrón
Brooklyn, NY

Ava Mendoza
Brooklyn, NY

Brenda Moorer
Stone Mountain, GA

Brittany Green
Durham, NC

Carolina Borja
Maple Heights, OH

Christopher Tordini
Brooklyn, NY

Darian Dauchan
New York, NY

David Dominique
Richmond, VA

David Leon
Brooklyn, NY

Fahad Siadat
Los Angeles, CA

Helen Sung
Forest Hills, NY

Hery Paz
Sunnyside, NY

Ishmael Ali
Chicago, IL

Jacob Adler
Scottsdale, AZ

Jean Carla Rodea
Brooklyn, NY

Joseph Bohigian
Clovis, CA

Justin Jones
Minneapolis, MN

Justin Morell
Hershey, PA

Kadhja Bonet
Long Beach, CA

Kala Pierson
Bryn Mawr, PA

Kala Ramnath
Redwood City, CA

Kaleigh Wilder
Detroit, MI

Kali Rodríguez-Pena
New York, NY

Katherine Skovira
Salem, OR

Kavita Shah
New York, NY

Kristina Dutton
Healdsburg, CA

Kyle Kidd
Cleveland, OH

Lee Weisert
Chapel Hill, NC

Leyla McCalla
New Orleans, LA

Lisa Bielawa
New York, NY

Luke Paulino
New York, NY

Luke Stewart
Washington, D.C.

Melanie Dyer
New York, NY

Michael Bussewitz-Quarm
Sound Beach, NY

Michele Cheng
San Jose, CA

Molly Joyce
Fairfield, CT

Najite Agindotan
Los Angeles, CA

Naomi Blount Wilson
Brooklyn, NY

Niloufar Nourbakhsh
Vernon Rockville, CT

Nirmala Rajasekar
Plymouth, MN

Ochion Jewell
Brooklyn, NY

Paul Wiancko
Brooklyn NY

Renee Benson
New Orleans, LA

Richie Goods
Putnam Valley, NY

Stephen J. Gladney
New Orleans, LA

Tomeka Reid
Chicago, IL

Troi Irons
Las Vegas, NV

Victoria Cheah
Bronx, NY

William Dougherty
New York, NY

Yacine Bouloures
Brooklyn, NY

가민 Gamin
New York, NY
New Music USA gave us a much needed luxury: to workshop our new piece for an entire week and properly compensate the artists for their time and effort. Because of [your] support, our performers are enthusiastic for this project and better prepared for the coming premiere.

Fahad Siadat,
Vocalist, Composer
& Conductor

A lifeline of support for my professional development/career and an indispensable opportunity to explore and expand upon my cultural identity as a composer and improvisor.

Hery Paz,
Saxophonist
We awarded a small number of Partnership Grants to complement funding available through open calls and fixed deadlines. The following artist-led initiatives align with the priorities of our Creator Development Fund, providing music creators and individual artists with unique opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, and peer learning:

- M³ Mutual Mentorship for Musicians
- New Music Gathering
- Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music - Composing Earth
Another result of reformatting our project grants program led to the Organizational Development Fund, which provided important funds to non-profit organizations, performance groups, dance organizations, festivals, presenters, and venues.

This program helped outstanding organizations which work regularly with, and support the development of, music creators and artists, and offer a crucial resource to their communities.
The New Music USA Organizational Development Fund is funded in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, with support from The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Howard Gilman Foundation, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Support for the Organizational Development Fund is also provided by contributions from the New Music USA endowment.
The Organizational Development Fund grant from New Music USA came at a crucial time for The Jazz Gallery. Our earned revenue streams had vanished during COVID-19 and we were scrambling for government and emergency funding. New Music USA’s rapid-response targeted support for the nonprofit music sector made all the difference in our ability to endure and thrive in this shifting environment.

David Johnston, The Jazz Gallery

The Organizational Development Fund was instrumental to our success this season. Emerging from the pandemic, Nief-Norf is enjoying in-person collaborations and an enthusiastic roster of artist-administrators who are passionate about the work we do daily. Receiving financial support like this is always a booster shot to the aforementioned enthusiasm; it notably lifts the spirits of our team, it allows us to continue thinking freely and creatively, and it brings our projects into focus as we plan for the future.

Andy Bliss, Nief-Norf
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<td>loadbang</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<td>Look &amp; Listen, Inc.</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Performance Practice</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
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Mind on Fire
Baltimore, MD

Monday Evening Concerts
Los Angeles, CA

Mosaic Dance Theater Company
Glen Ridge, NJ

Music is Art
Buffalo, NY

New Chamber Ballet
New York, NY

New Music Chicago
Chicago, IL

New Music Detroit
Birmingham, MI

New Orleans Airlift
New Orleans, LA

New Vintage Baroque
Loyalton, CA

Nief-Norf
Knoxville, TN

Non-Event
Jamaica Plain, MA

NYC Winter Jazzfest
Brooklyn, NY

Present Music
Milwaukee, WI

PS21: Performance Spaces for the 21st Century
Chatham, NY

Quince Ensemble
Winona, MN

Ragamala Dance Company
Minneapolis, MN

Roulette Intermedium, Inc.
Brooklyn, NY

Society for New Music
Syracuse, NY

Sparks & Wiry Cries
Lansing, NY

Stephen Petronio Dance Company, Inc.
New York, NY

Synchromy
Pasadena, CA

The Crossing
Philadelphia, PA

The Harlem Chamber Players, Inc.
New York, NY

The Jazz Gallery
New York, NY

Third Angle New Music
Portland, OR

Trinosophes
Detroit, MI

Verdigris Ensemble
Dallas, TX

Victory Hall Opera
Charlottesville, VA
CAPACITY BUILDING

We continued to create ways to support new music organizations struggling through the pandemic with the launch of our Capacity Building program in NYC during the spring of 2021. This new two-year program aids a diverse cohort of small groups and organizations committed to presenting, performing, or promoting new music by living music creators on a regular basis.

This program is funded by New York Community Trust and provides financial support with professional development opportunities and mentorship to ten NYC-based organizations as they navigate their way through the next stages of COVID 19 and beyond. Learning topics include:

- Institutional fundraising
- Organizational structure
- Strategic planning
- Individual giving
- Board development
- Succession planning
- IDEA best practices

Continuum Culture & Arts
Die Jim Crow Records
Experiments in Opera
Five Boroughs Music Festival
Jazz Passengers
Music Projects, Inc.
Mantra Percussion, Inc.
New Amsterdam Records
ShoutHouse
The Rhythm Method
Yarn/Wire
The Capacity Building program was hugely helpful to ShoutHouse, allowing us to organize our branding and promotional materials, grow our audience, and connect with a group of like-minded ensembles and musicians. After consulting with presenters from within and outside the cohort, we developed materials and strategies for reaching new presented performance opportunities. Thanks in part to New Music USA’s program, we’ve been able to keep a solid foundation and grow as an organization during the challenging times of the pandemic.

Will Healy, ShoutHouse

Being a New Music USA Capacity Building grantee has been key to the development of Die Jim Crow Records. In conjunction with the actual grant itself, the mentorship and consultation New Music USA provides is invaluable. It has helped us tremendously with building our infrastructure in a methodical way, setting and achieving attainable goals, and maximizing every resource in an effort to expand our bandwidth.

BL Shirelle, Die Jim Crow Records
Amplifying Voices continued to foster collaboration and collective action between US orchestras and composers toward racial and gender equity in classical music, and saw inspiring growth as the Sorel Organization added their support. This allowed us to expand the initiative to include two more co-commissioning consortia, who are working with composers Jessie Montgomery and Nina Shekhar.

We also began talks with the Toulmin Foundation, which committed to future support, and saw exciting plans develop for the first set of premieres set to take place in 2022.

Composers
Clockwise from top left in image

Shelley Washington
Vijay Iyer
Valerie Coleman
Tania Léon
Brian Raphael Nabors
Nina Shekhar
Tyshawn Sorey
Jessie Montgomery
Juan Pablo Contreras
Arkansas Symphony Orchestra commissioning Tania León, with co-commissioners the Auburn Symphony, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, and National Symphony Orchestra

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Lucerne Festival commissioning Tyshawn Sorey, with additional co-commissioners to join

Berkeley Symphony commissioning Brian Raphael Nabors, with co-commissioners Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, ROCO, and Seattle Symphony

Dallas Symphony Orchestra commissioning Jessie Montgomery (Sorel Fellow) with co-commissioners the Baltimore Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, and Seattle Symphony

Las Vegas Philharmonic commissioning Juan Pablo Contreras, with co-commissioners California Symphony, Fresno Philharmonic, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Tucson Symphony Orchestra, and Richmond Symphony

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra commissioning Shelley Washington, with co-commissioners Aspen Music Festival and School, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Kansas City Symphony

Oregon Symphony commissioning Vijay Iyer, with co-commissioners Boise Phil, Fresno Philharmonic, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, Las Vegas Philharmonic, and London Philharmonic Orchestra

The Philadelphia Orchestra commissioning Valerie Coleman, with co-commissioners the New World Symphony, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and San Diego Symphony

YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles) commissioning Nina Shekhar (Sorel Fellow), with Play on Philly, Austin Soundwaves and The People's Music School

**AMPLIFYING VOICES**

**CONSORTIA PARTNERS**

![Handshake](handshake.png) 40+ orchestras  
![Music Note](music_note.png) 9 co-commissions  
![Location](location.png) 21 states, 2 countries

Arkansas Symphony Orchestra commissioning Tania León, with co-commissioners the Auburn Symphony, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, and National Symphony Orchestra

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Lucerne Festival commissioning Tyshawn Sorey, with additional co-commissioners to join

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The Philadelphia Orchestra commissioning Valerie Coleman, with co-commissioners the New World Symphony, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and San Diego Symphony

YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles) commissioning Nina Shekhar (Sorel Fellow), with Play on Philly, Austin Soundwaves and The People's Music School

Amplifying Voices is powered by the Sphinx Venture Fund, with additional support from ASCAP, the Sorel Organization, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, and The Wise Family Charitable Foundation.
I am so thrilled to be working with LACO to write a new piece for them and other orchestras. Having the time and resources to create a large piece for the orchestra is rare in the modern classical world, especially for younger composers. In addition to writing the piece, I am looking forward to sitting down with the orchestra to open up a dialogue on what changes can be made to create a more inclusive space in the orchestral classical realm.

Shelley Washington, Composer and Performer
After months of development, we were excited to finally launch the Reel Change Fund for Diversity in Film Scoring program in October 2020, with generous support and leadership from SESAC and film composer Christophe Beck.

Reel Change provides a five-year grant and mentorship program for composers of diverse backgrounds who have been marginalized in film composition.

After the program launch, applications were reviewed on a rolling timeline by an advisory board made up of leading composers of film music, including Christophe Beck, Jongnic “JB” Bontemps, Kris Bowers, Miriam Cutler, Chanda Dancy, Tony Morales, and Pinar Toprak. Members of this advisory board offer additional support and mentorship throughout the program.

Equipment and software sponsors for this initiative are Spitfire Audio, Steinberg, and Native Instruments. We also began discussions about sponsorship with Amazon Studios who will be joining our partnership in 2022.

Seven awardees selected from across the US

Four to six grants averaging $20,000 allocated each year of the program

Supported expenses include composer compensation, musician fees, recording, sound mastering fees, studio expenses, orchestration, production equipment + more
Sultana Isham
Film: The Neutral Ground
A documentary feature film about the removal of confederate monuments in New Orleans, LA.

Cali Wang
Film: The Island of the Lost Girls
The story of three young orphaned sisters who are accidentally transported to an island where no signs of civilization other than a lighthouse seem to exist.

Catherine Joy
Film: Women In The Front Seat
Paints a vibrant and diverse picture of women who not only drive their motorcycles but drive their lives.

Daniel Jimenez Afanador
Film: Demi’s Panic
Demi’s Panic tells the story of a Latina professional in the beginnings of the COVID-19 pandemic in NYC.

Emer Kinsella
Film: She The Creator
A psycho-spiritual drama about a traumatized painter losing touch with reality as she is misled by her young, enamored caretaker.

Nora Kroll-Rosenbaum
Film: Midday Black Midnight Blue
An intimate and stirring portrait of souls struggling through grief in order to at last discover something resembling solace.

Wei-San Hsu
Film: Invisible Nation
Tells the story of Taiwan’s struggle for human rights, democracy and inclusion in the international community.
The support I received from Reel Change was instrumental in the completion of my score for The Neutral Ground. This fund allowed me to connect and build positive relationships with an international network of orchestras, choirs, and engineers. I am extremely grateful for this deeply affirming initiative as I was allotted more space to grow as a composer.

Sultana Isham
Film Composer, Violinist, Writer, Ethnomusicologist
NewMusicBox is New Music USA's online magazine that has been devoted to sharing the diverse and timely stories and voices of new music creators for over 20 years.

This year it became a more critical platform for the community than ever, as other media outlets folded or were forced to cut back on music coverage. We published articles addressing social and racial justice issues in new music and the challenges of COVID-19, and we shared important creator stories including those of Native experimental musicians and Black Mystery School pianists.

With the pandemic making NewMusicBox's traditional in-person interviews difficult, New Music USA premiered the NewMusicBox SoundLives podcast in November 2020. Recorded remotely, SoundLives shares in-depth insights, stories, and sound clips from creators and performers who dedicate their lives to new music.

New Music USA also recognized the mental health challenges presented by the pandemic and began distributing composer Julia Adolphe's LooseLeaf Notebook podcast, which uncovers the connection between creativity and mental health, with a focus on nurturing artistry, emotional intelligence, and self-care.
I’m not somebody who writes based on the intellectual side of composition, but rather on the side of addressing what is within all of us.

Valerie Coleman on SoundLives
## TOTAL ASSETS $21,074,524

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## TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS $21,074,524

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### WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

- **Operating Fund**: $135,215
- **Board Designated Fund**: $357,560
- **Board Designated Cash Reserve Fund**: $400,000

### WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

- **Temporary**: $3,360,967
- **Perpetual**: $15,550,147
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW
(Audited)

Revenue: $2,437,482

- $1,352,489 (55.5%) Net assets released from restrictions
- $436,786 (17.9%) Government
- $371,500 (15.2%) Foundations
- $213,978 (8.8%) Individuals
- $42,780 (1.8%) In-Kind
- $19,949 (0.8%) Other income

Expenses: $2,299,222

- $959,910 (41.7%) Grants Awarded
- $842,176 (36.6%) Program Activity
- $497,136 (21.6%) Administration & Development
2020-2021

STAFF, BOARD & COUNCILS

Winter Jazz Fest featuring Artemis
A world in which new music is not made would be unthinkable. It is critically important to support those who enrich our lives, bring people together, inspire change, and soothe the soul by creating new musical works in all forms and genres. It is an honor to be part of New Music USA, which has been profoundly and consistently effective over many years in supporting, connecting and encouraging those engaged in the vital work of creating the music of today and tomorrow.

Alan Kornberg,
New Music USA Board Member
STAFF

Monisha Chowdhary
Grantmaking Manager

Shannon J. Effinger
Development Manager
(started November 9, 2020)

Miles Freeman
Development Manager
(through September 23, 2020)

Megan Ihnen
Senior Communications Manager
(through June 30, 2021)

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(started October 21, 2020)

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Communications Director
(through February 25, 2021)

Vanessa Reed
President & CEO

Jill Strominger
Communications Director
(started June 14, 2021)

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Administrator

Scott Winship
Director of Grantmaking Programs

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Finance Advisor

Alanna Maharajh Stone
Communications Consultant
(started March 3, 2021)

Wolfgang von Stuermer
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Michelle Hromin
Digital Associate
(started May 24, 2021)

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(started April 5, 2021)
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