

Thea Musgrave Performer – Composer Collaboration Grant

Guidelines

About

The **Thea Musgrave Performer-Composer Collaboration Grant** is an annual grant of \$10,000 that is awarded through the [New Music Creator Fund](#). The grant, made possible through the generosity of the esteemed composer Thea Musgrave and her husband, Peter Mark, provides funding to a composer and performer(s) for the creation of a new work and the collaboration required to bring it to fruition. This grant is inspired and informed by Thea Musgrave's lifelong commitment to pursuing strong collaborations with extraordinary musicians.

One \$10,000 Musgrave grant will be awarded as part of each cycle of the New Music Creator Fund. The grant funds will be split between composer and performer(s) and will cover the composer's commission fee, the performance fee, and costs associated with workshopping the new work.

Parameters

One grant of \$10,000 will be awarded through the New Music Creator Fund to a composer and solo performer, duo, or chamber ensemble (fewer than 8 players) for the creation, workshopping, and performance of a new work. The Musgrave grant will uniquely support composers and performers who work with notated music in the broadly defined genres of contemporary classical or experimental music (acoustic or electro-acoustic).

- **The Work**
 - The grant will support the creation of a work of ~10 minutes in length for a solo performer, duo, or chamber ensemble (fewer than 8 players).
 - The funds, to be used primarily to offset commission and performer fees, will be divided between the composer and performer(s) based on the scope of the project.
- **Collaboration**
 - The composer and performer(s) will agree to organize at least 2 workshop sessions to collaborate on the new work, with 3 or more sessions preferred.
- **Performances**
 - The new work must be performed, presented, or produced publicly at least 3 times over the grant period (2 years).

How to Apply

Applicants for the Musgrave grant must apply to the [New Music Creator Fund](#) program. You will be able to indicate your interest in being considered for the Musgrave grant on the Creator Fund application. Applications may be submitted by either the composer or performer(s). Please be sure to list the participating composer and/or performer(s) as collaborators on the application. All applicants must adhere to the guidelines for the New Music Creator Fund program, including all eligibility criteria.

Applicants who apply for the Musgrave grant and are not selected will automatically be added to the regular Creator Fund application pool. Please note that the average Creator Fund grant is \$3,000, with awards made up to \$5,000. If awarded a regular Creator Fund grant, the composer and performer(s) are not required to fulfill the parameters specific to the Musgrave grant.

The deadline to apply is Thursday, November 21 at 11:59pm ET.

More information and application instructions may be found here:
<https://newmusicusa.org/program/new-music-creator-fund/>

About Thea Musgrave

Born in 1928, and still composing music almost a century later, **Thea Musgrave** is a musical icon. Over a remarkable international career, Thea has created a body of work bursting with energy, ready to leap off the page and seize our imagination. Her music abounds with such style and sophistication, constantly asking fresh and daring questions of musical forms and traditions. She lures us in by suffusing her music with so much of the world we know, drawing in particular on paintings, poems, myths and her Scottish heritage as the starting point for so many of her musical voyages.

She has long been beguiled by the inherent theatre of the concert hall, compelling soloists and ensembles to assume new formations, making audiences think anew about what we are witnessing onstage – and our part in it. This was evident in her thrilling Clarinet Concerto, proudly commissioned by the Royal Philharmonic Society in 1969. In recognition of her remarkable artistry and achievements, Thea has received many significant awards including two Guggenheim Fellowships, the Ivors Classical Music Award 2018, and The Queen's Medal for Music. She was awarded a CBE on the Queen's New Year's Honour List in 2002, as well as Honorary Membership in the RPS. In February 2025, Thea's opera *Mary, Queen of Scots* was newly staged by the English National Opera to packed houses and much critical acclaim. We invite performers and audiences to delve into the extraordinary canon she has gifted us, teeming with treasure: athletic and adventurous for its players; atmospheric, suspenseful and cinematic for its listeners.

To discover more, visit the [dedicated page](#) on the website of her publisher Novello & Co and Chester Music, part of Wise Music Group, which features her complete repertoire, details of key works, her biography and career highlights, and a short film of Thea talking about her music. Her website is theamusgrave.com.

About Peter Mark

Peter Mark is a renowned conductor, viola player, and teacher. For over 35 years, he conducted the Virginia Opera where he was also Founding Artistic and General Director. In this role, leading over 100 productions, he conducted the US premiere of Thea Musgrave's opera *Mary, Queen of Scots* and the world premiere of her opera *A Christmas Carol*, both of which he has recorded. He subsequently conducted the forces of the Royal Opera at Sadler's Wells in the European premiere of the work and later conducted the world premiere of Thea's opera *Simón Bolívar*, which was excerpted for the Proms. He has conducted on five continents, and works extensively as an opera coach with singers around the globe live and on Zoom with his unique OperaVoiceBodyWork.com.

Peter began his career as an eminent viola player, and toured extensively throughout Europe, South America, and the UK as a soloist. He performed as Principal with Chicago Lyric Opera, Assistant Principal at the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and taught at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he met visiting professor Thea Musgrave. They were married in 1971 in London. In 1973, Thea wrote her Viola Concerto for Peter which he premiered that year at the BBC Proms with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Thea conducting.