

NEW MUSIC USA Organization Fund WEBINAR March 5, 2026

[Video of the webinar and slides](#)

1. **QUESTION:** Could you please clarify what “new” music means in the context of general operation support? Is it the premieres of never-before-performed pieces, or can it be music by living composers?
 - **ANSWER:** all of those are great. It does not need to be only premieres or newly commissioned work. Work by living creators is great too! We support work by living composers of all genres.
New Music USA’s mission is to nurture a vibrant and inclusive community for artists and listeners. To us, that means supporting the many musical approaches and ideas being created and performed today. We welcome all artists/organizations who are curating compelling sonic experiences, influencing original musical creations and presentations, and contributing to the sounds of tomorrow.
2. **QUESTION:** We want funds to support an artist residency program, and a shared community recording and live production space. What is the guidance between a GNO and a New Music?
 - **ANSWER:** Do you know who the artists/composers are already? Is there new work being created or commissioned? If you have a particular project element you’d like funded then you should apply for the Creation of New Work strand, but if not, and it sounds more likely this is a general request, then I would apply for the General Support strand.
3. **QUESTION:** follow up question: should the application in terms of eligibility be framed in context of the fiscal sponsorship?
 - **ANSWER:** Good question, please apply as your organization. When you get the eligibility question about organization bank account, select yes because you have a fiscal sponsor. In the budget materials, you can include the fee the fiscal sponsor takes to administer the grant. but other than that, I would focus the application on your group. At this stage we do not need any additional information about your fiscal sponsor. Hope that makes sense!

4. **QUESTION:** When you say you are particularly interested in supporting the creation of new work, does that mean you allocate more awards to that category? If so, what is the breakdown?

- **ANSWER:** Good question. That phrase in the guidelines is associated with the Creation of New Work strand, we have the a funding breakdown on the program page. These are driven by restrictions in our endowment
 - i. Roughly 25% of the applications we fund must include the creation of new work (e.g. commissions and the facilitation of brand-new pieces of music) and will be distributed through the Creation of New Work strand.
 - ii. Roughly 25% of the applications we award must include creation or programming of live music for dance (creation, performance, choreographer, and dancer fees) and will be distributed through the Live Music for Dance strand.
 - iii. Roughly 50 to 60% of the applications we award are unrestricted and will be distributed through the General Operating strand.

As you see above, roughly 25% of our funding is for the Creation of New Work and in this strand we are most interested in newly created work, that which is created as part of the grant award. That does not necessarily need to be the case in the General Support strand.

5. **QUESTION:** Work samples question - we're an ensemble applying for a commissioning project with 5 different composers. What combination of composer/ensemble work samples should I include for the 3 samples?

- **ANSWER:** Hello! There are different ways to go about it, but I would think about including one sample from the ensemble and then two samples from two of the representative composers. You could also provide some links to other samples in other areas (the composer bio section for instance) for the other composers.

6. **QUESTION:** Our average annual budget over the past three years is \$3,0680,000. Does this make us ineligible? We would apply for project support. Also, our budget for FY27 is greater than \$3,000,000.

- **ANSWER:** It sounds like you are over the budget cap for this grant. Sorry!

7. **QUESTION:** I'm applying for Live Music for Dance –1. When speaking about community impact, should we speak to general community impact of our org overall, or communities served specifically by the project we are applying for support for? 2. We plan to provide a work sample of the music creator. Do you have further guidance on the balance of highlighting this creator vs. demonstrating our commitment to live new music in dance?

- **ANSWER:** I love both of those suggestions. either or both would be great. & live answered
8. **QUESTION:** If an organization received a Creation of New Work grant in 2025, are they eligible to apply for the organization fund in 2026?
- **ANSWER:** I'm sorry, Organization Fund 2025 grantees are not eligible again until 2027
9. **QUESTION:** My band has already started tracking for an album and are hoping to apply for funding to pay for the digital strategy management to help with the rollout of the album. Is that something that would be eligible? If not, we can apply for other production costs associated with the project (mixing, mastering, recording, etc.). I guess the question is can we use the grant money to pay for promotion of the work, or does it need to be used to pay directly for the creation of the work?
- **ANSWER:** In the past, applications that were only applying for promotional funds were not as competitive so I would recommend focusing on how it would support the new album production / release or apply for general support. We also encourage the funds to go towards the composers and creators if the grant is for the creation of new work.
10. **QUESTION:** We are leaning toward applying for General Support, but are wondering if we would be a better fit for Creation of New Work. We are planning 2 commissions for next season (by 2 different composers) and have a history of performing new work, but we do not exclusively perform new works. Can you comment on which strand would be a better fit?
Thank you
- **ANSWER:** It sounds like you would be eligible for both. We trust your judgment on what you think is the strongest application. General Support, you have the freedom to use the funds for operations and commissions. creation of new work- you'd have to apply for only one project. We do get more applications for General Support, but we also have more funds for that so they are about equally competitive
11. **QUESTION:** Should the creation of new work budget include the cost to perform the work? Or do you just want the cost of creating the work itself?
- **ANSWER:** It'd be great to see a full budget to get a sense of the size and scope of the project. Thanks!
12. **QUESTION:** do you have to be a non profit to be eligible?
- **ANSWER:** No. You do not need to be a 501c3.
13. **QUESTION:** My project is a collaboration between a professional chamber music group and a professional dance company, both with a history of commissioning new works. (The chamber ensemble maybe slightly more so.) The project is a new chamber ballet commissioned and now being composed, to be choreographed and premiered live in next

season (26-27)—both live music and dance. What is the best way for us to apply? Thanks—
John

- **ANSWER:** Only one group could apply for the same project. Either could apply but i will share that we get less dance applications and it has a higher award rate.

14. **QUESTION:** So will you have to have your budget made out on a spreadsheet or form

- **ANSWER:** Up to you or a QuickBooks report works too. we don't have a format requirement. However you keep track of your budget would work.

15. **QUESTION:** Does a fellowship program that provides artist back of the house support and creation of new work fall into this?

- **ANSWER:** Sure, that sounds like a good fit for general support application.

16. **QUESTION:** please confirm it is OK if organization changed status (from a trade name DBA under an LLC to an incorporated nonprofit) last August. Total we have been operating for approximately 10 years. We are fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) now but we can apply directly for the grant. Any issues or all good with us proceeding with application?

- **ANSWER:** Sure, you don't have to be a 501c3 or LLC, we are looking for 3 year history. Fiscal sponsor is good too!

17. **QUESTION:** The application has a question "Your Bio." Do you want the grant writer's bio? It's at the beginning of the app. Thanks.

- **ANSWER:** Thank you, that is less important for this grant application. That is a general contact form for all our programs. you can skip it and focus on the one in the application that asks your organization history & bio.

18. **QUESTION:** Thanks for your time today! 2 quick things; 1, the Zoom is set up requiring folk to have a Zoom account vs merely opening via a browser. 2, I'd like the eligibility" question to be defined further regarding 3 years of existence... my org was founded in 2024 and has met the \$5k in 2024, 2025 and thus far in 2026 but we have not been in existence a full 3 calendar years. can we still apply or should we wait til next year? :) thanks much!

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for letting me know about zoom, I will look into if we can adapt that for future webinars. I did not know that was a setting. You would you have a 3 year history at the time of the application. Please keep this opportunity in mind for next year!

19. **QUESTION:** For general operating support: do we need to submit details on the program throughout the Season? We present world music and dance, but not all performers are Native American and/or U.S. based artists

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for sharing with us. That's fine. You can work with folks from all over the world, please note that our grant funds can only go towards US based artists, but as a

US based org applying for general support that is fine. Feel free to share the range of your programming.

20. **QUESTION:** If our organization has a commitment to producing and performing new music annually through a program that nurtures music creators, but not all of our concert programs include music by living composers, do you recommend we apply for the creation of new work strand versus general operating?

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for your question, we don't require all your work to be new music focused. That is ok. We trust your judgement on what you feel you have a stronger application for - if you have a new music project you want to apply for vs. general support

21. **QUESTION:** not til november 2026 :) very helpful, we will apply next year! thanks for all you do.

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for your understanding. We're here to help with any questions you have next year when you apply

22. **QUESTION:** Cannot be a student? Even if the money isn't being applied to school in any way?

- **ANSWER:** That is an eligibility criteria that the organization cannot be a university and the artists supported with the funds cannot be in a degree seeking program.

23. **QUESTION:** You say that funds don't need to support a specific project, yet the application asks for details on our upcoming programming and description of specific music program or project the funding would advance. We would apply for our choral season from Sept 2026-May 2027, yet our artistic team does not yet have that season programmed, they do this in May/June. Will we be competitive if we cannot describe the specific works we will be performing next season? We would instead describe the types of innovative work we do generally and have done in the past.

- **ANSWER:** That section helps the panelist better understand what sort of work your organization does. The general support grant can be used for operations or programs. You can mention the choral season is in planning stages and share past examples of new music. "We would instead describe the types of innovative work we do generally and have done in the past." sounds great!

24. **QUESTION:** If we have only recently become a 501c3 and do not yet have an audit available, is this ok? Is there something we should submit instead?

- **ANSWER:** That should be fine. Do you have any sort of tax document like a 990? If not, a QuickBooks or other report could work.

25. **QUESTION:** What if you are a small 501c3 and you don't have an audit?

- **ANSWER:** That's fine. Do you have a 990? Or other tax document that might be useful?
26. **QUESTION:** I wish to apply for organization support, but have a question about new work fund- does the composer need to reside in the US?
- **ANSWER:** the groups and people supported by the grant have to be living and based in the US
27. **QUESTION:** how many are given out ? and how many people applied last year?
- **ANSWER:** We are planning to award approx 80 awards. We had about 475 applications go to panel last year.
28. **QUESTION:** Hi folks, thanks for this session. Is there any difference in the average award size between General Support, Creation of New Work, and Live Music for Dance? And, given that it looks like there are many more applicants in General Support, is that a more competitive category, or do you adjust the award pools in line with the application pools?
- **ANSWER:** We receive more applications for general support but also have more funds to award. based on past year's applications Creation of New Work and General Support are equally competitive. We get less applications for Live Music for Dance and have a higher award rate for that category.
29. **QUESTION:** May an organization that puts an annual festival of concerts apply for general support, or would that be less competitive since it doesn't last all year? Or since their festival is more or less their annual budget?
- **ANSWER:** We support many festivals, and they usually apply to general support. We know it takes a lot of time to plan a festival so that is ok with us. If you search "festival" on the program page you can see the past grantees who also organize festivals <https://newmusicusa.org/program/organization-fund/>
30. **QUESTION:** If we are a new music group, how do we decide between GS and NW strands?
- **ANSWER:** We trust your judgement on what you feel you have a strong application for. If you have details/project descriptions/bios of who is involved in the New Music, than that is a good fit. If you need more organization support and are in between new project ideas, I suggest general support
31. **QUESTION:** Could we do a consortia commission for a new orchestral work that includes 3 orchestras and 3 composers, for example? Would one orchestra have to be the lead organization for the grant submission and funds distribution?
- **ANSWER:** Yes and yes! Yes you can be a consortium and yes we would need a lead org to be the applicant in this case. Thank you!
32. **QUESTION:** New Music for Dance applicant here. Eligibility states: ""Applicants must. . . Have a minimum of three years of performing, programming, and budget activity at the time

of the application." Our org became a 501c3 on Apr. 11, 2023— but started budget activity and rehearsing ia few months earlier in Jan. 2023 — Do we hit the 3 year mark for eligibility? pt 2. Christa— You stated in my question re. 3 years of eligibility that it is okay “because the grant would start in July so that is 3 years.” But the eligiblity explicitly states 3 years as of “time of the application.” So the question is whether on OUR end 3 years is defined as when we became a 501c3 (Apr 11, 2023— short of 3 years) or Jan 2023—when we started rehearsing, had a budget in play, etc.— which is MORE than 3 years as of 3/19/26 when this application is due.

- **ANSWER:** Yes, thanks for clarifying! That works because the grant would start in July so that is 3 years :) You started doing the work in January 2023 so that is 3-year history at the time of the application too.

33. **QUESTION:** Our fiscal year 2026 is not finished. We cannot provide actuals for that year (2026) until September 30, end of fiscal. This is the confusion I am experiencing.

- **ANSWER:** You can provide your budgeted numbers. That should be fine.

34. **QUESTION:** In the budget for general support, based on your instructions, we are adding the New Music Grant ask into our already approved budget for 25-26. Is that what you intended to have? Also, Are you asking for actuals for the 3 years (revenue/expenses) or the budget for those years. We do not have actuals, of course, for the ongoing 25-26 budget.

- **ANSWER:** live answered

35. **QUESTION:** Under General Support, is an organization that has a track record of production but not "regular programming" eligible and potentially competitive?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

36. **QUESTION:** [our organization] shares both contemporary music and dance. May we apply for general support - or live music for dance?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

37. **QUESTION:** Will it matter if we are a Youth Orchesrta commissioning new works? Many funders only want "professional" groups, but we are much more than just a youth organization. Our aim is to professionally prepare students who would like to enter the professional orchestral world. Hoping age of performers doesn't negate us...

- **ANSWER:** live answered

38. **QUESTION:** If this is our first application to New Music USA, is it better to get a track record with a grant for new commission, and apply for gen op in the future? Of are we equally competitive for gen op?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

39. **QUESTION:** For Financials: May we submit IRS 990s

- **ANSWER:** live answered

40. **QUESTION:** It's unclear whether the general support grant is for NEW work ONLY. It seems you're saying that it is....yet here's your eligibility requirement for general operating grant: "Have a commitment to producing, performing, AND/OR commissioning the work of living"

- **ANSWER:** live answered

41. **QUESTION:** ...US/territories-based music creators on a regular basis.

- **ANSWER:** live answered

42. **QUESTION:** I had a few questions about the Music Examples section of the grant - Would it be acceptable to link to an example of our music on Instagram? Do we have to provide a description of the Examples? We were hoping to provide links to Instagram reels as samples.

- **ANSWER:** live answered

The application system can accept file uploads and links from Youtube or vimeo. Those are the platforms that SMAPPLY can accept links to. You can download the Instagram Reel and upload it into the SMAPPLY system as a video. If you want to use a Reel, I suggest uploading the video file in the small chance the panelist does not have an Instagram account.

43. **QUESTION:** Is there a specific amount of time the panel will look at the work samples? 2-3 work samples of how long?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

44. **QUESTION:** If we are applying for the creation of new work, would it be an eligible proposal if we were supporting the creation and premiere of new work that would then be traveling to other institutions?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

45. **QUESTION:** What is the percentage of grantees to applicants?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

46. **QUESTION:** What if we can't be specific about next year's programming yet? Can we talk about what we've done in the past?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

47. **QUESTION:** can you comment a little further on how much new music an organization should be presenting to be competitive for General Support? We present a wide range of rep, and I'm not sure whether we do "enough" new music to qualify. I heard Scott say something about new music in the org's mission - is that a must-have? We are a chamber music organization

- **ANSWER:** live answered

48. **QUESTION:** We are a non-profit who are managing a fiscal sponsorship for another non-profit. Would both non-profits be able to apply for general support (for different projects)? Thank you!

- **ANSWER:** live answered

49. **QUESTION:** sorry - I should've clarified that I still have a question: does an entity applying for new music USA funding with a fiscal sponsorship have to meet the eligibility requirements? Or, can eligibility be supported by our fiscal sponsor? (ie ours has been in operation for 50 years)

- **ANSWER:** live answered

50. **QUESTION:** Is there a preference between a 990 or a financial review by a CPA firm for organizations not required to have an audit?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

51. **QUESTION:** Can the endorsement letter come from the music creator or someone else?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

52. **QUESTION:** Endorsement Letter shouldn't be from someone who is a part of the organization but it can be from a board member?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

53. **QUESTION:** Financial statement is provided by fiscal sponsor?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

54. **QUESTION:** Can you give some examples of "crucial resources to their community" that organizations might offer? We are a chamber music organization.

- **ANSWER:** Hello. Each organization may think about community differently, so it depends on who you define as your community. Is it your geographic community? Is it your audience community? Is it the community of artists you work with/serve? Who do you do the work for? Whoever that may be, what resources do you provide them? Do you commission composers (if that's your community), do you provide audience engagement (if that's your community), do you work with a specific population (i.e. incarcerated individuals, or youth, or elders, etc.) what is your impact on that community? Tell us who you work with or provide services to, whoever that may be, as your community.

55. **QUESTION:** My organization has an overall budget of over \$3 million - however our performing arts division (music, dance, & theater) only has a budget of about \$1.5 Million. Are we still eligible? Re-submitting my question - my organization has an overall annual budget of

over \$3 million - however our performing arts division (music, dance, & theater) only has an annual budget of \$1.5 million which is in the range. Does that mean we can still apply for GOS?

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for your interest. How is the performing arts division different or deciphered from the organization? Is the performing arts division a separate organization with its own budget and bank account? If they are the same entity, it sounds like it does not meet the budget eligibility.

56. **QUESTION:** My organization was founded in 1989. I returned in 2024 to reboot the organization. I served as the past president back in the 200s and 2010s. We have program in 2024, 2025, and 2026 with budgets of \$10K-\$20K per year. Would we be eligible for the 2026 application? To clarify for whomever if following up via email, our fiscal year is currently the calendar year, and we have an FY24 and FY25 completed budget and are half way through our FY26, we would be eligible in 2026, correct?

- **ANSWER:** It sounds like you have over 3 years of organization history. Please apply.

57. **QUESTION:** main question is about how to apply for a Live Music for Dance grant with a fiscal sponsor. Not sure where to put that information clearly in the application. So, the “ask” should be included in the 26-27 budget only. You do want actuals where we have them, but not for ongoing year? 2. We are adding previous concert excerpts with new works performed by ensembles including the composers. We do not have the works by composers/ensembles to be presented in 26-27 for this grant. Is that ok or should we show an example of the ensemble to be featured? we do know that the work will be contemporary/new music.

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for your questions. The information about the fiscal sponsor is important if you are awarded the grant so no worries about it in the application process. I suggest in the eligibility, with the question about designated bank account, select yes because that is how the fiscal sponsor is helping. In the budget, please include the ask in the year you are asking for it. You care correct, that would be the 26-27 budget.

Here are the project questions for the live music for dance application.

- i. Project name
- ii. Please tell us about the project, including key personnel, timeline, goals, and expected outcomes. (up to 200 words)
- iii. Information about the artists collaborating with Creation of New Work/Live Music for Dance applicants. Creator/musician names, locations, bios, and websites. (Up to 350 words)

For the work samples, we understand that the new work is likely not created yet, so past examples of performances would work well. The work samples can be of people who will be involved with this upcoming season. Thanks for sharing.

58. **QUESTION:** Quick question on the budget—would a proposed operating budget that hasn't been officially board-approved yet work for now, or do you need it to be finalized before submission? Thanks!

- **ANSWER:** Please share whatever you have at the time of the application. We understand that this current year is estimated and will likely adapt as the year progresses.

59. **QUESTION:** Are monies from New Music USA wholly distinct from any Federal monies? put another way...there is no conflict here if we are awarded a New Music USA Grant while also holding an NEA Grants for Arts Projects (for example) - correct?

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for your question. We do not have restrictions for our grantees about receiving support from other sources. However, we are not able to speak about other funder's restrictions,

Here is our statement about where our funding for this program comes from. "Support for New Music USA and its many programs and activities is provided by foundations, corporations, government agencies, and hundreds of individual contributors. The Organization Fund is funded in part by Fifth House Ensemble; support for organizations in New York State are made possible 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; support for organizations in New York City are funded in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and with support from the Howard Gilman Foundation.

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60. **QUESTION:** One of your emails stated that you could be eligible even though the music is not new. Is that incorrect? We're an early music group so music is not new. We meet all of your other requirements.

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for you question. Here are the eligibility criteria that is relevant to your question. "General Operating Support applicants must: Have a commitment to producing, performing, and/or commissioning the work of **living**, US/territories-based music creators on a regular basis. Creation of New Work/ Live Music for Dance applicant organizations must: **Confirm that any newly commissioned work is entirely new;** Proposals for expansions, arrangements or re-stagings of existing works are not eligible. Your repertoire doesn't have to be entirely new music but we intend our grants to go to groups that meet the criteria above in some of their programming. If you'd like to forward the email you are referencing to grants@newmusicusa.org I will take a closer look and make sure we communicated clearly. Thanks for sharing.

61. **QUESTION:** To clarify, as long as there is new music added consistently, other music can be part of the repertoire?

- **ANSWER:** Yes! Thanks for clarifying. If you have some commitment to sharing new music that meets the eligibility criteria.

62. **QUESTION:** For general support, we have 3 contemporary music programs within our org: is it preferred to focus on one, or discuss our overall impact on creating and programming new compositions?

- **ANSWER:** for general support, I suggest sharing all the work you do. Since general support can be used for operations and programming, please share what you feel is relevant. If you are limited on words, we trust your judgement on what you feel is the best program to showcase for general support.

63. **QUESTION:** We convene a gathering where folks of all backgrounds come together for a weekend to create new music collectively. Some of these participants may be students. Is that an issue that some participants may be in (non-affiliated) degree programs?

- **ANSWER:** You can work with students however the grant funds cannot be paid to the students. You would have to use other funds if they are getting paid for the work created over the weekend. Creation of New Music often goes to the composers or performers. General support could be a good fit if you need to fund the operations of the event. Hope that helps!

64. **QUESTION:** If we are a dance company creating a new evening length work. but performed a 15 min movement only iteration for a works in progress showing in January, does that make the work ineligible?

- **ANSWER:** I feel that is still eligible since it was a short movement and a work in progress showing. Please apply.

65. **QUESTION:** Can our organization apply for two categories?

- **ANSWER:** No ,sorry, we ask applicants to only apply once and for only one funding strand.

66. **QUESTION:** I started my record label last year July 2025 do I have to wait until 2027. I Have a LLC my record label has 2 artist right now can I Apply (host)

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for your question. You have to have 3 years of history, so I suggest applying in the future.

67. **QUESTION:** We are a chamber music organization. If our mission is not necessarily new-music-focused, it sounds like Creation of New Work is a better fit - is that right? Can we apply for support for two different commissions taking place in the same season (by different composers)?

- **ANSWER:** If applying for Creation of New Work, I would recommend applying for only one of the commissions. We trust your judgement on which is the best fit. If you want to support both works, General Support is a good option.

68. **QUESTION:** So a creation fee can be the pressing fee for an LP?

- **ANSWER:** Good question. Creation of New Work funds specific new music projects and programs. Pressing could be part of the budget, but we would hope the some of the funds for the creation fee would go towards the artists, creators, and/or composers involved and not only for production costs.

69. **QUESTION:** what's the third strand?

- **ANSWER:** 1. General Support 2. Creation of New Work. 3. Live Music for Dance. We have those last two listed closely throughout the application because they have overlapping questions and eligibility, but they are different strands

70. **QUESTION:** is third strand for live music for dance only or also without dance?

- **ANSWER:** Live Music for Dance is a good fit for dance focused groups who want to incorporate live music into their performances

71. **QUESTION:** What is meant by an endorsement letter?

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for your question. The endorsement letter and artistic letter of support are application requirements that help our panelists gauge the applicant's impact on their community. You only need to submit one type of letter. The letter you submit depends on the program area you are applying for. General Operating Support applicants must submit an endorsement letter, and Creation of New Work and Live Music for Dance applicants must submit an artistic letter of support. The endorsement letter is a statement of endorsement from an artist or other member of your organization's community. The artistic letter of support is a statement of endorsement/commitment from the creator and/or artist with whom your organization is collaborating on your Organization Fund project. The FAQ on our website has lots of information about the letters of support if you have more questions.

<https://newmusicusa.org/program/organization-fund/#faq>

72. **QUESTION:** For new work, can individual artists apply? And can it be new work recording in June but not releasing until the fall?

- **ANSWER:** This grant is for organizations and groups, individuals cannot apply. Please look into the Creator Fund grant to learn about an opportunity for individuals and see if you're eligible. Many people are awarded to record and release a record with that fund

<https://newmusicusa.org/program/new-music-creator-fund/>

73. **QUESTION:** our nonprofit/venue supports youth performers, and most of our programming/events result in creation and performances of modern music popular with youth like hip hop, punk, etc. Is this style of music eligible/competitive. Additional question: I would say that our org provides about 50% creative incubation programming, 50% professional development for youth artists and sound engineers. But we are also a venue hosting concerts several times a week. Are we eligible for general support?

- **ANSWER:** Love it! We support lots of different groups and genres. I think general support would be a good fit. If you want to visit the program page you can see past grantees <https://newmusicusa.org/program/organization-fund/#grantees>

74. **QUESTION:** Is it possible for an organization working with non-USA composers, would a general operating support grant be appropriate, or would they only be eligible for project support, since funds must support US artists?

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for your question. You can work with composers and creators from around the world but the funds from this grant can only be used for US based artists/composers. General Support would be a good fit if you have new music that features US based artists in your programming

75. **QUESTION:** Regarding the 3-year minimum – my organization started 6 years ago as a music studio out of my home, then we launched a nonprofit in 2024 to support subsidized programs with students, and as of November we've been working to launch a second studio in our downtown district which is creating the immediate need for general operating support. Would that qualify for the 3-year minimum?

- **ANSWER:** Sure, 6 years as a music studio counts for the 3-year history.

76. **QUESTION:** For the \$5,000 budget? Is it for each year?

- **ANSWER:** Yes, that is the budget minimum for each year.

77. **QUESTION:** To get a letter from the community, what do you prefer? collaborators from the community, audience? mayor?

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for your question. We have suggestions based on what funding type you are applying for,
For General Support, an artist or other member of your community: audience member, board member, stakeholder, invested supporter, partner, performer. Please note that applicants cannot write their own endorsement letters, nor can members of the applicant organization's staff.
For Creation of New Work/Live Music for Dance: The artistic letter of support should be written by the creator and/or musician with whom the organization is collaborating on the project they are proposing, for example: the composer the organization would like to commission. The statement should include the writer's/writers' role(s) in the proposed

project. For Live Music for Dance, the artistic letter of support should ideally also include a statement of endorsement/commitment from the choreographer on their project. We have a lot of responses about the letters on the FAQ section of the program page. <https://newmusicusa.org/program/organization-fund/#faq>

78. **QUESTION:** so as a presenting organization, applying for GOS does all our programming have to focus on new music or should we focus on the programs that support local artists. Some new music some not?

- **ANSWER:** Sure, both are great. We are interested in learning how you support new music and how you connect with your community. Not all of your programming has to focus on new music.

79. **QUESTION:** Thanks Christa for responding. Do we already have to have all details for the US based artists for the grant period or can we share whom we've presented in the past?

- **ANSWER:** Happy to help 😊 For general support you can share what you have done and the details you have at the time of the application. If you were applying for creation of new work, you would have to know more details and share about the composers/creators involved.

80. **QUESTION:** can you define what criteria is "new work ". compared to " general help" . we are a nation wide music and arts festival on our 7th year 😊

- **ANSWER:** Congrats on 7 years of supporting artists. For an organization that has a festival, I would recommend general support. If you look at the program page and search festival you can see examples of past grantees that also organized festivals <https://newmusicusa.org/program/organization-fund/#grantees>

81. **QUESTION:** My theater company, will be applying as a theater company (LLC) that produces new music theater. We are not 501c3. Do we need to apply with our fiscal sponsor or can we apply on our own?

- **ANSWER:** You can apply on your own and you don't need to be a 501c3. You won't need any details about fiscal sponsorship at this stage of the application

82. **QUESTION:** is third strand for live music for dance ONLY or also without dance? Thanks

- **ANSWER:** It is for dance focused groups and must include dance. Creation of New Work and General Support does not have to involve dance.

83. **QUESTION:** For the Creation of New Work, it requires the artistic plan/programs for the season in which the work will be performed. Our 26-27 season is set. The new work will be performed in our 27-28 season (fall of 2027), which is not finalized yet. Would it be okay to submit our 26-27 season of programs and note the outlines for the 27-28 season?

- **ANSWER:** That sounds ok to me. For Creation of New Work, we suggest focusing on one project so you could apply for the new work that will be performed in fall of 2027. An alternative would be to apply for general support.

84. **QUESTION:** Thank you for this help! What qualifies as a “new work”? No official production or public performances? No previous workshops or rehearsals?

- **ANSWER:** Hello. It may depend on the context, but generally we are referring to newly created work. If you are applying to Creation of New Work or Live Music for Dance then the work would be one that is being created as part of the project. Arrangements or re-stagings of an existing work would not qualify. If the work has had some workshops, rehearsals, or other, that would be fine as long as it has not had its premiere already.

85. **QUESTION:** We are a Festival presenting Jazz and jazz-related music, we are VERY INTENTIONALLY focused on brand new, music - are recurring [free, family-Friendly] Events eligible for Organizational support. we are now in our 5th year.

- **ANSWER:** Please apply! General support would be a great fit. We support lots of festivals. Congrats on 5 years!

86. **QUESTION:** We're a presenting org and commission 2-5 significant new works each year, but this is just ONE part of our multi-disciplinary programming (also a community center, gallery, present dance/theater/opera). If commissioning new work is important but not central to our mission, are we less competitive for gen op?

- **ANSWER:** That's great! Thanks for all you do. 2-5 new works a year is a lot. It sounds like you have a lot of connection with the community too and offer a lot of services to the area. Based on the little I know from this question it seems like you could have a competitive application. Please apply.

87. **QUESTION:** We are a collaborative group of dancers, co-creating the choreography - can we write a letter from the six of us?

- **ANSWER:** Sure! The letter can be co-written and signed by all involved. That's totally fine! Thanks!

88. **QUESTION:** In the grant guidelines it states that grants are offered for organizations involved in the "nurturing of music creators." Does that mean that an organization that is educating young music creators is eligible? Even if we generally don't commission or put on performances of new music ourselves?

- **ANSWER:** Hello. Yes, we have supported organizations that work primarily in educating young creatives.

89. **QUESTION:** If we applied for 'Creation of a New Work', could we still apply if we perform the piece without dance this season? We were hoping get funds to premiere it as the mini

ballet the composer envisioned next season, but giving our audience a sneak peak of the music alone in April.

- **ANSWER:** Sure, Creation of New Work & Live Music for Dance are separate funding types. If you are a dance group, we do recommend you apply to the Live Music for Dance funding type.

90. **QUESTION:** Is there a way to get the application questions (with word limits) at some download link? I didn't see one in the guidelines but maybe I missed it.

- **ANSWER:** Yes! Good question, it is in the guidelines and also on SMAPPLY. Here is a pdf of the guidelines, pages 5-6 have the application requirements, and it matches the questions in the application and shares the word counts <https://newmusicusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Organization-Fund-2026-Guidelines-final.pdf>

91. **QUESTION:** How does NMUSA define community for the purpose of this application? Do you mean geographically or can we think more expansively about who we serve?

- **ANSWER:** Hello. Each organization may think about community differently, so it is difficult for us to define that for you. Who is your community? Is it your geographic community? Is it your audience community? Is it the community of artists you work with/serve? Who do you do the work for? Whoever that may be, let us know.

92. **QUESTION:** My question is not being answered, so I'll assume that you're interested in NEW music only. Maybe you should change your eligibility requirements to clarify.

- **ANSWER:** I would love to help however you posted Anonymous so I am not able to see what question you asked before. We had over 100 questions submitted in the 1 hour webinar so we were not able to get to all the questions live. At New Music USA We believe in supporting new music in all its forms across the US. Groups don't have to only share new music exclusively. We have outlined in the guidelines what is eligible: "General Operating Support applicants must: Have a commitment to producing, performing, and/or commissioning the work of **living**, US/territories-based music creators on a regular basis. Creation of New Work/ Live Music for Dance applicant organizations must: **Confirm that any newly commissioned work is entirely new**; Proposals for expansions, arrangements or re-stagings of existing works are not eligible. Your repertoire doesn't have to be entirely new music but we intend our grants to go to groups that meet the criteria above in some of their programming.

93. **QUESTION:** I am the director of the organization. I am also the composer for the project proposal. Is this a conflict? I have created music for the project some pieces have been inspired by classical composers. Is this work permissible?

- **ANSWER:** No. This is not a conflict at all. Please submit your application and feel free to write a letter of endorsement/commitment as the creator of the work as necessary.

94. **QUESTION:** Do the work samples need to be from the actual performances that were programmed?

- **ANSWER:** Hello. I'm not sure I totally follow. The work samples should demonstrate the work being done by the organization, whether that be a performance (if an ensemble) or artists presented (if a presenter or record label, etc.). They should demonstrate the artistic work of the organization in whatever best way you feel speaks to the work of the organization.

95. **QUESTION:** by current year do you mean 25-26 season or 26-27 season? when you say to add New Music USA funding to revenue for current year, do you mean 2026-27, the year of the grant?

- **ANSWER:** Good question and because lots of groups have different fiscal years this request can get confusing. Yes, when we ask to add New Music USA funding to revenue for whatever your current year fiscal year is (so 2026-27 in your example), the year of the grant. This is for General Operating Support only.

96. **QUESTION:** I have a question about the statement from the choreographer for the Live Music for Dance grant. In the application, it clarifies that the letter should be written by someone outside of the organization and should not be written by the person applying for the grant. However, our organization is a dance organization, so if someone outside our organization writes the letter, it would be like a letter of recommendation. Is that what they are asking for, or am I misunderstanding something? Thank you very much

- **ANSWER:** Hello and apologies for the confusion. For the Live Music for Dance strand it is acceptable and preferred to have a letter of endorsement/commitment from the choreographer. We only ask that it not come from a staff member in the other two strands of the program (General Support and Creation of New Music). Sorry for the confusion, but yes, please submit a letter from the choreographer.

97. **QUESTION:** Is the eligibility bio for me personally or the organization?

- **ANSWER:** Please provide your organization's bio on the application form. You may leave the individual bio box blank. That is a default contact form for all of our programs and not that important for this grant program. You can share your bio if you'd like but it is not necessary. You can write, "see organization bio" in the first section, and just enter it in the application section.

98. **QUESTION:** How does one differentiate artist/ creative strands or projects So groups that are not an official organization but still an ongoing community all the same, need we apply at all, thank you for your time.

- **ANSWER:** Hello, thanks for your interest. I may need more information to understand the question, so if I don't get to your answer, please email me and I will try to help more Grants@newmusicusa.org . This program is for organizations. That could be an ensemble, band, group, collective – we want to support an organized community that has been creating or performing together for at least 3 years and meets all the other eligibility criteria.

Alternatively, if you are an individual who wants to work more with a group/ community, we have a grant for individuals who are working on collaborations, called Creator Fund, that application opens in the fall.

99. **QUESTION:** Hi there! There is a question about whether any of the artists involved in our season are past New Music USA grant recipients. I wanted to clarify how specific we need to be. Do we need to mention if we program music by a composer who may have received funds for their own work that is separate from the work we are programming? Similarly, what if a performer has played on another org's concert in the past that was funded by New Music USA, but is performing a different work on our concert? We are a presenting org applying for General Support. Thank you!

- **ANSWER:** Hello, thanks for your question. That is more relevant for creation of new work and live music for dance. The General support criteria for that is "Must have completed all previously awarded activities through New Music USA and submitted all required reporting." and that applies to your group. General Support funds can go towards operations and programming. You can be general with what you share with us. To answer your specific questions "Do we need to mention if we program music by a composer who may have received funds for their own work **that is separate from the work we are programming?** " because it is separate it is ok, also because it is general support and not project specific.

"Similarly, what if a performer has played on another org's concert in the past that was funded by New Music USA, but is performing a different work on our concert?" That is ok. That is new work. We understand how interconnected the music community is. You don't have to get into all the details unless it is something that helps your application. For Creation of New Work/ Live Music for Dance we ask for project specific. And the artists involved we ask they have completed any and all projects associated with previous awards from New Music USA including the Organization Fund, Creator Fund, Next Jazz Legacy, Reel Change, and Amplifying Voices. They can be past grantees but we would like them to not be a current grantee.

100. **QUESTION:** Since 2026 financials won't be filed until 2027, so if you want financials like 990s for three years we have only two (25 & 24) according to your specs. Do you want projected 2026 budget, and 990s for 25 & 24?

- **ANSWER:** Thanks for your question. We ask for:
 - i. a budget for your current financial year. Please include the amount you are requesting from New Music USA in your income projections. (General Operating Support only)
 - ii. Most recent audit or financial statement (for General Operating Support only) and this only is for the most recent year you have it. We do not need it for all of the years.
 - iii. Budget of project (for Creation of New Work and Live Music for Dance only)
 - iv. Your organization's budget totals over the last three years. This section requires you to provide a brief numerical response, the income total, and expenses total for each year. (All applicants)

101. **QUESTION:** We are a new music ensemble and have applied a few times without success. There's no feedback given, which makes it feel like beating our heads against a mysterious wall! How do we improve our possibility of success?

- **ANSWER:** We understand your frustration and are sorry. Due to the high volume of applications, New Music USA is not able to provide feedback on grant applications. We receive 1500-2000 applications across our programs every year and are a small team of 3 people so it is not possible to give feedback to everyone and it is not fair to only give it to some people. It is a competitive grant, with hundreds of wonderful, deserving groups applying, unfortunately we have to decline many great groups. Every year there are different panelists reviewing the applications.

Slide 25 offers some notes about what successful applications

<https://newmusicusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/ORGANIZATION-FUND-WEBINAR-2026.pdf>

102. **QUESTION:** Can you give us more insight about endorsement letters -- who would be best to write this? Long-term audience member? A composer we've commissioned in the past? And how many of these letters should we include? (We're applying for General Support)

- **ANSWER:** Hello. Either of those choices sound good. Ideally it would be someone who is able to speak to the organization and its impact and role...and invested supporter or participant for instance You can submit multiple letters if you like, but please limit it to 3.

103. **QUESTION:** Do you require a CT-1 number?

- **ANSWER:** Thank you we do not require a CT-1

104. **QUESTION:** Finances - our FY 2026 will be estimated... do we include the amount we are requesting for this grant?
- **ANSWER:** Please include the amount you are requesting from New Music USA in your income projections in the budget for your current financial year.(General Operating Support only)
105. **QUESTION:** Do I understand that budget we submit for the coming year should include the amount we're requesting from this grant, showing where the funds have been allocated?
- **ANSWER:** If you are applying for general support, please include the amount you are requesting from New Music USA in your income projections in the budget for your current financial year.
106. **QUESTION:** We are a chorus with an endowment that is restricted to specific projects, not used for general support. Would having an endowment eliminate us from consideration for general support?
- **ANSWER:** No. That should not impact your application.
107. **QUESTION:** What if there is a gap in programming?
- **ANSWER:** It could be helpful to know more, if you'd like to reach out to grants@newmusicusa.org I can learn more about your question and have a better response. It would depends on the total history and the reason for a gap. If you have more than 3-year history and there are some gaps that can be ok. For example, when we experienced the Covid-19 shutdown most places could not share live programming and we were understanding of gaps in programming for the grant cycles that included those years.
108. **QUESTION:** Is there a way to download the complete application questions (with word limits) in PDF or Word doc or another format? I prefer to not work directly in SurveyMonkey until ready to copy/paste the responses for all sections of application
- **ANSWER:** Yes! Good question, it is in the guidelines and also on SMAPPLY. Here is a pdf of the guidelines, pages 5-6 have the application requirements, and it matches the questions in the application and shares the word counts <https://newmusicusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Organization-Fund-2026-Guidelines-final.pdf>
109. **QUESTION:** Will we receive this SLIDE DECK?
- **ANSWER:** Sure thing! Here is the link to the slides <https://newmusicusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/ORGANIZATION-FUND-WEBINAR-2026.pdf>