SPECIAL AWARDS IN THE ARTS - GUIDELINES

2020 MUSIC AWARDS

With generous support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Program Overview

The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation is pleased to announce a $300,000 fund for the creation and development of new music projects by California composers. The compositions will be commissioned and produced by Bay Area nonprofit arts presenting organizations that can apply for grants of $50,000 each.

Program Goals

1. To accelerate the creative excellence and professional development of innovative California composers, sound designers, and music practitioners.

2. To recognize and support Bay Area arts presenting organizations, interdisciplinary arts organizations, and community-based arts nonprofits in their commitment to commission, develop, and produce new works by California composers.

3. To encourage and deepen the engagement between the composer(s) and the producing organization.

4. To support projects that represent the Bay Area’s diverse communities and neighborhoods.

5. To support organizations that are deeply rooted in culturally-specific communities and have the potential to deepen their engagement within these communities.

Application Deadline

Emailed application materials must be received by the Gerbode Foundation by 4:00 p.m., Thursday, April 9, 2020. Late or incomplete submissions will not be eligible. Hardcopy applications will not be accepted.

Applications must be emailed to: special.awards@gerbode.org
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION AND LEAD ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Individual artists may not apply directly but must be commissioned by an eligible applicant organization.

Eligible applicant organizations:
- Music producing organizations
- Musical-theater producing and presenting organizations
- Music ensembles
- Music presenters (including festivals)
- Interdisciplinary arts presenters
- Community-based arts organizations
- Organizations with a history of working with musicians and composers

Please note: Fiscal sponsors are eligible to apply for a commission on behalf of a presenting organization on a case-by-case basis. Please contact staff at the Gerbode Foundation at 510-915-8048 or olivia@gerbode.org to ensure eligibility.

The applicant organization must:
1. Be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been in operation for at least 3 years.
2. Be located in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, or Sonoma County.
3. Have a strong proven track record of producing and/or presenting music.
4. Demonstrate a history of working with musicians and composers (including artists rooted in music).
5. Pay a minimum fee of $12,500 to the commissioned lead artist(s).
6. Have a demonstrated commitment to supporting and/or paying artists and musicians.
7. Not be a current recipient of a Hewlett 50 Commissions or a Creative Work Fund award for the same project or lead artist.
8. Submit only one application.

The proposed composer(s) must:
1. Meet one of the following criteria: (1) be a current California resident or (2) be a California resident during the last 24 months. (If a composer has had significant California-based artist residencies for the development of their work in the last 3 years, and they live out of State, they may be eligible. Please discuss with Gerbode staff.)
2. Have a recent history of producing or creating their work in California before the time of the application.
3. Have a demonstrated artistic track record and their creative voice is rooted in music.
4. Have creative leadership or be a key co-creator of the proposed work.
5. Consider a project that will have significant impact on the organization if they are a managing or artistic director of the applicant organization or ensemble.
6. Have experience commensurate with the design and goals of the proposed work.
7. Have had at least two new compositions produced and given public performances or presentations.
8. Have not received a composer or music commission grant funded by the Gerbode Foundation. (Unfortunately, past individual artist recipients of Special Awards in the Arts commissioning grants are not eligible.)
9. Be nominated for one commission by only one organization.
PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Proposed projects must meet the following criteria:

1. Commissioned works must be original, new compositions commissioned and produced by the presenting organization.
   - Co-produced works are eligible on a case-by-case basis. Please discuss with Gerbode staff.
2. Commissioned works must result in new compositions presented to the public. The premieres must take place no earlier than June 2021 and no later than October 2023.
3. Project budgets must include a minimum composer commission fee of $12,500.
   - For collaborative processes or projects that include two or more lead composers, please discuss minimum fee with Gerbode staff.

The following projects and final presentations are eligible (this list is suggestive but not exhaustive):

- Musicals and musical theater
- Interdisciplinary work
- Sound installation
- Film score
- Opera or operetta
- Studio recordings made available to the public
- Song cycle
- Concert (including solo performances)
- Orchestral or chamber
- Choral
- Live performance rooted in music

ALL music genres are eligible.

The following projects are ineligible:

- Revisions of previously composed work, unless substantially revised.
- Works-in-progress currently in rehearsal.
- Commissions solely for students and student ensembles.
APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Deadline: Application materials must be received by Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 4pm (PST). Application materials must be emailed to special.awards@gerbode.org. Late or incomplete submissions will not be eligible. Hardcopy applications will not be accepted.

Required: All applicants must speak to Olivia Malabuyo Tablante, Special Awards in the Arts Program Director at the Gerbode Foundation, to determine eligibility. She can also answer any questions about the program. She can be reached at 510-915-8048 or olivia@gerbode.org. You may also schedule a phone call by visiting/clicking: https://2020MusicAwardsphonecall.as.me/. Please make sure to read through the Program Guidelines prior to contacting the Foundation.

What to submit as separate attachments in a single email (labeled numerically as listed):

1. Application pages 1–6 (or page 1 through the project budget or, if applicable, detailed project budget).
2. IRS letter establishing the applicant organization’s nonprofit, tax-exempt, public charity status.
   If a fiscal sponsor is the applicant and NOT the presenting organization, please include both:
   a) The fiscal sponsor’s proof of nonprofit status.
   b) A short description of the presenting organization’s history and partnership with the fiscal sponsor as it relates to the commissioned work.
3. List of staff & Board of Directors.
4. Organization’s financial statements (balance sheet and profit & loss statement) for:
   a) Previous completed fiscal year ending in 2018/19; and
   b) Current fiscal year ending 2019/20.
5. Current fiscal year budget.
6. Up to three relevant reviews/articles representing the applicant organization or presenting organization’s recent music productions. (Print and online accepted.)
7. One-page list of the applicant organization’s or presenting organization’s history as a producer/presenter of music and work with musicians and composers.
8. Reviews/articles representing the proposed composer(s). (Print and online accepted.)
9. CV/Résumé/biography of the proposed composer(s).

Work samples to submit in separate emails to special.awards@gerbode.org:

For the proposed composer(s):
1. (Required) Work samples. Three samples of the work of the composer(s). The samples can be audio, video, or score samples. Vimeo, YouTube, SoundCloud links, etc. are all accepted. Please provide password if applicable. You may also attach sound files or PDFs. Please be selective with the work samples that you submit. These work samples are one of the key components in the overall evaluation.

For the presenting organization:
2. (Optional) Video samples that are significant to the proposed commission may be submitted. Please discuss proposed video samples or questions regarding video samples with Gerbode staff. If you include video samples, please submit no more than two videos by including links to the video samples. Please note the following for each: name of production, year of production, and relevancy to the commissioned project and/or composer. Remember to provide password if applicable.
SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

A national advisory panel of music practitioners and music presenters will review the applications and work samples in late Spring 2020. The Gerbode Foundation will conduct the final review of applications and make the final selection of grantees. Recipients of the 2020 Music Awards will be announced in July 2020.

Considering the program goals listed on page 1 of the application, the advisory panel will be asked to consider the following criteria in their evaluation:

1. **Potential positive impact of the proposed work on the composer(s) and applicant organization, including the immediate and long-term artistic and organizational goals.**

2. **The composer’s influence on a particular music genre:** artistic contributions as represented by previous artistic history, proposed project narrative, and submitted work samples. The composer’s creative process is new and innovative.

3. **Proposed project involves an authentic partnership** between the presenting organization and the composer(s).

4. **The applicant/presenting organization is artist-centered** and has demonstrated a commitment to producing/presenting music and supporting and/or paying its musicians and artists.

5. **The project is feasible,** which includes the applicant organization’s ability to finance, rehearse, produce, and present or record the commissioned piece, and the composer’s ability to complete the commission within the stated timeframe.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Recipients of the 2020 Music Awards must produce and premiere the commissioned piece in the San Francisco Bay Area. Presentation venues must be located in one or more of the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, or Sonoma.

An interim report specifying production plans must be received by the Gerbode Foundation before all funds will become available. If the production schedule changes from what is proposed at the time of application, the Gerbode Foundation must be notified and approve the changes in writing.

Recipients must also submit final narrative and financial reports and acknowledge this grant in printed materials and other forms of recognition with the following language:

*Project* was made possible by the Gerbode Foundation’s Special Awards in the Arts program.
GERBODE FOUNDATION CONTACT

This program is administered by the Gerbode Foundation. All applicants MUST contact Olivia Tablante to confirm eligibility. Olivia will also be available to answer questions regarding the application:

Olivia Malabuyo Tablante
Special Awards in the Arts Program Director
The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation
1791 Solano Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94704
Phone: 510-915-8048
Email: olivia@gerbode.org
Schedule phone call: https://2020MusicAwardsphonecall.as.me/