

Community Engagement Organization within The College Music Society

The College Music Society has an established Community Engagement Committee which oversees the organization's activity in this area. Applicants are encouraged to review the Society's Web site for information concerning the philosophy and practice of engagement and outreach initiatives.

Engagement and Outreach

The College Music Society is currently considering the distinction between "engagement" and "outreach." Both initiatives have appropriate roles in the cultural life of communities. All CMS members are welcome to be part of this discussion and are welcome to review the article "Community Engagement and Community Outreach: Aren't They the Same?" at www.music.org/Engagement-Outreach.html.

Current Live Applications

The following programs are currently underway. Applications are welcome through the deadline of May 15, 2010. Please see the following Web pages for details:

Robby D. Gunstream Award in Music:
www.music.org/Gunstream.html

Community Engagement Seed Grant Support:
www.music.org/SeedGrant.html

Writing Project Descriptions

Selection of proposals is based upon materials submitted, so it is important to write a project description that can be understood and evaluated fairly. The purpose is to convey to the reader what type of interaction will occur in the community setting.

Do not merely describe the subject or list the topics to be covered. Rather, state the main point of the interaction, outline the subsidiary points, and summarize the content offered, so that someone not familiar with the material can know in brief what will happen and can evaluate its contribution to the reciprocal nature of these projects.

The project description, like the interactions themselves, should be clear to an audience of varying backgrounds, not just to those with a narrow specialty. Also include the benefits to all parties involved, keeping in mind the exchange that should be occurring. Please be certain that the project description includes a description of the partner(s) or institution(s) involved, including characteristics of the venue(s) and of the group or community involved.

Application Review Process

The Community Engagement Committee of The College Music Society will review proposals and submit its findings to the Board of Directors of The CMS Fund for final approval. Grant awards will be announced in June 2010.

Ideas for Generating Community Engagement Proposals of All Types

Venues for community engagement might include community music programs such as bands and choirs, senior citizen centers, public and private school settings, community organizations and centers, health institutions, museums, and faith communities. Community engagement might take some of the following forms, among others:

- Giving lecture-recitals that would be meaningful to a particular population, such as an ethnic or cultural group;
- Composing a new work specifically for an existing community ensemble, inviting their input in the composition process and staying involved at least through public performance;
- Helping high school students learn how to listen more deeply to their own music;
- Investigating the demographics and cultural backgrounds of university students, and engaging them in conversation through technology prior to the first engagement event to determine what kind of activity would be of most benefit to them, and having them contribute their own knowledge to the activity;
- Making connections between a composer's works and works displayed in a local museum;
- Developing a regular program at a senior center for limited-movement, music-based activities;
- Establishing an ongoing partnership with a school district to work with music teachers who teach improvisation;
- Establishing an ethnic music ensemble that promotes the traditional music of the local population;
- Bringing fourth graders to campus regularly to attend recitals and followed by the musicians visiting the schools.

Priority will also be given to creative projects of a collaborative nature that cross disciplines and inspire ongoing music-centered interactions with local participants. Faculty projects involving student participation are welcome.

Submitting Application Packages

The complete application package should be sent by mail to The College Music Society, 312 E. Pine Street, Missoula MT 59082. Applications through attached MS Word or PDF files may also be submitted via email to careerservices@music.org. ♦