Fundraising Resource Guide

PURPOSE

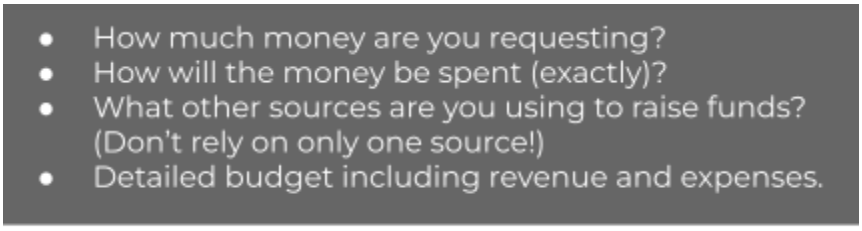
We are thrilled to present the final round of our competition live in New Orleans! Housing for finalists will be provided, however transportation costs to New Orleans are the responsibility of each ensemble. Below are some ideas for funding your ensemble's travel plans.

GRANTS

Grant Writing Tips

Grant writing is a skill in and of itself. Here are some helpful tips to get started:

- Contact the foundation and have a conversation about your funding needs. Communication and relationship building is key to fundraising success.
- After your initial conversation with the foundation, begin writing your narrative early. There are often several details in the final stages of submission and putting it off until the day it's due is never a good idea!
- Create a Google doc or other working document to answer questions and work on your application that is not on the portal. This is the best way to save your work, have others proofread, etc. before submitting.
- Ask for feedback from a teacher or mentor before submitting.
- Answer each question as clearly and concisely as possible. Avoid flowery language and be sure address these topics in a straightforward way::



City Wide Foundations

I.e. The Greater New Orleans Foundation

Website

Most cities have a local foundation offering grant opportunities and resources for students. A simple google search will help you get to know your city's local funding resources.

Associated Chamber Music Players

Link

Associated Chamber Music Players (ACMP) is a US-based nonprofit organization with the joyous mission of supporting chamber music for pleasure.

Sphinx

Website

Sphinx Organization is a social justice organization dedicated to transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts. Sphinx offers a variety of resources including scholarships and grant opportunities. Check out their website and be sure to reach out to them if you have questions about funding eligibility.

Chamber Music America

Website

CMA offers a variety of resources for chamber ensembles including grants for ensemble development and growth.

South Arts

Website

Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, South Arts is a nonprofit regional arts organization empowering artists, organizations, and communities, and increasing access to arts and culture. They have a variety of grant and funding opportunities. Check them out!

SCHOOL RESOURCES

Many universities have funding opportunities for students to help with travel, competitions, and more. A great place to start is searching your school's website for

student grant opportunities. You can also email the Dean of your school to ask about funding opportunities.

What if they don't respond?

Don't be afraid to follow up! Faculty and administrators are extremely busy and often dealing with hundreds of emails every single day. If you haven't heard back in a week, send a friendly follow up! Or better yet, stop by their office to have an in-person conversation.

Should I inquire about funding before I know the competition results?

Yes! Funding might be available to help with application fees. And it is never too early to start looking for financial assistance. Even if it turns out you don't need funding to travel to New Orleans, your ensemble may need funding to attend a summer festival or the finals of another competition. Proactive communication is key!

ONLINE CAMPAIGNS

Social Media

Facebook and Instagram fundraisers are a great way to raise funds for a project. The secret to these fundraisers?

- Share your often (every day if possible!
- Always include a call to action, like Donate Today! Or Donate towards our travel costs!
- Privately ask for donations through Messenger.

GoFundMe

Website

GoFundMe is a crowdfunding platform that uses the power of social networks and the internet to give people the means to raise funds. It is no cost to set up a fundraiser, however they deduct a small fee from each donation made.

DONOR STEWARDSHIP

Whether you've received financial support from a grant, GoFundMe campaign or your parents, it's important to **thank your donors**. And you can never thank them too much! This is your opportunity to be creative and invite your supporters into your community and artistic work.

Share your NCF video with them, invite them to join you in New Orleans for the final round, or send them a good old fashioned thank you card. Better yet, do all of the above! Your fans are supporting you because they believe in you and they want to celebrate your successes!

QUESTIONS?

Nervous about raising money or asking for help? We are here to support you! If you have questions or just need a pep talk, please feel free to contact us!

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