

THE BOWERS PROGRAM 2024-27

ENSEMBLES APPLICATION GUIDELINES

(if applying as an Individual Artist, please refer to the Individual Artist Application)

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center invites ENSEMBLES to apply for The Bowers Program 2024-27 residency.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Bowers Program identifies and nourishes a select number of individuals and ensembles chosen from an international pool of candidates through highly competitive auditions. Dedicated to developing the chamber music leaders of the future, The Bowers Program is a rigorous three-season residency, fully integrating Bowers artists into every facet of CMS activities in New York and on tour nationally and internationally.

The alumni of CMS's Bowers Program (formerly CMS Two) constitute a who's who list of today's renowned chamber musicians. From early members such as clarinetist **Anthony McGill** and pianist **Jonathan Biss**, to more recent alumni such as pianist **Inon Barnatan** and violinist **Benjamin Beilman**, to ensembles such as the **Escher, Calidore, and Danish String Quartets**, the musicians of the Bowers Program form an international network of collaborative artists performing chamber music at the highest level of artistic excellence anywhere.

The accolades, accomplishments and activities of Bowers Program graduates include, among others: 50 artists who have received **Avery Fisher Career Grants**; more than 7 graduates occupying **principal chair positions** in major symphony orchestras; over one dozen **artistic directorships** of leading festivals and chamber music series, both in the United States and abroad. Alumni of the Bowers Program are increasingly visible not only as the most sought-after chamber musicians, but also as artistic leaders of the future.

Membership in the Bowers Program affords immediate inclusion in all activities of the Chamber Music Society, including appearances in **Alice Tully Hall** and **on tour**, as an equal member among CMS's legendary, multi-generational and multi-national roster of artists. More than half the number of performers regularly appearing at CMS are current, incoming or former Bowers artists.

Acceptance into the Bowers Program, by audition only, requires musical and instrumental preparation of the highest level and a dedication to pursuing chamber music as a life-long study. The Bowers Program jury, composed of chamber artists and distinguished artistic administrators, is headed by CMS Artistic Directors **David Finckel** and **Wu Han**, who personally oversee the CMS activities of all Bowers artists for the duration of their residencies.



Professional opportunities in which Bowers artists have traditionally participated include:

- Alice Tully Hall subscription concerts
- Rose Studio subscription concerts
- National and international touring
- Lecture/demonstrations
- CMS education and community engagement programs
- Radio, television, and web live stream broadcast
- Leading workshops and coaching sessions for young musicians

Individuals and ensembles selected for the program will be compensated for all activities. Specific schedules are developed each season by mutual agreement between CMS and the artists.

IMPORTANT DATES

- September 16, 2022 (5:00pm ET): Application Deadline
- By September 30, 2022: Notification that all application requirements have been met
- By November 22, 2022: Applicants invited to live auditions receive notification
- January 10, 2023: Live auditions take place at Lincoln Center in New York City

ELIGIBILITY

Applying ensembles must provide evidence of a seriously committed and active career.* Significant performance experience and a broad range of repertoire are required. While no age limit exists, CMS is looking for ensembles at the beginning of their careers that are eager to develop their skills in the CMS environment. Ensembles need NOT be based in New York.

*Ensembles warrant that for the foreseeable future, their personnel is stable and committed to the group.

LIVE PERFORMANCE ROUND

Based on application materials and submitted recordings, select ensembles will be invited to audition live, before a panel of judges, performing ensemble repertoire and collaborating with CMS musicians in additional chamber works. Live auditions are on January 10, 2023 in New York City.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All materials must be submitted online:

[Ensembles Application form](#)

Professional History

- Professional references for the ensemble
 - Three references required, including name, email address, and phone number
 - **Letters are not required**; CMS will contact your references directly
- Information for each ensemble member
 - Name, birth date, instrument, mailing address, email address, phone number
- Recording information
 - Name of composer, title of work, venue/series (if live), and date of recording

Ensemble Profile

- Venues and programs and significant performances **of the past 3 years** (January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2022) (we understand the challenges presented over the past 2 years as a result of the pandemic, so please submit the best representation of the work of the ensemble)
- Repertoire list
- Awards and prizes for ensemble
- Resume/CV for each ensemble member as an individual WORD document or PDF file
 - Must include education information including principal teachers and coaches, school(s) attended, degree(s) earned, date of graduation
- Ensemble photo, and optional individual headshots

Ensemble Biography

The ensemble profile must be attached as a single Word document or PDF and include:

- An in-depth “bio” in the style it might appear in a concert program
- A complete and detailed description of the ensemble’s genesis including personnel changes and/or any other significant or relevant events in the ensemble’s evolution

Ensemble Career Goal Statement

Your ensemble’s goal statement must be attached as a single Word document or PDF and address the following questions:

- What has inspired your ensemble and its members to join together and pursue such a demanding career?
- What’s your vision of the ensemble’s career five years from now?
- How do you plan to get there?

Video Recordings

The first round of Bowers Program auditions is the submission of video recordings. Applicants are strongly encouraged to select recordings of the highest possible quality. Applicants must submit recordings of four complete works via YouTube links, including:

- A representative work from the Classical period

- A representative work from the Romantic period
- Two additional selections of your choice from any period
- At least one recording must be a video of a live performance
- The other recordings may be video or audio files, and may be live performances or edited (studio/professional) recordings
- For each recording, provide name of composer, title of work, venue/series (if live), and date of recording
- Works must be submitted as YouTube video URLs which **must remain active until at least January 31, 2023**
- Instructions on how to upload a video to YouTube may be found [here](#); instructions on changing an uploaded video's privacy setting to "unlisted" may be found [here](#)

Please use the following format to title content:

Recordings via unlisted YouTube video:

Ensemble Name_Composer_Piece_Movement

Example: Smith_Brahms_Trio in A minor_01

For non-music files

Last Name_Item Description

Example: Smith_Biography; Smith_Headshot

For questions regarding the audition process, please contact:

Matthew Tommasini

Director of Education and Community Engagement

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