4th Annual Young Musicians Innovation Challenge
for high school musicians in the tri-state area and cities of Miami, FL and Philadelphia, PA

The Young Musicians Innovation Challenge gives high school musicians the unique opportunity to compete for the chance to launch innovative chamber music projects with mentorship and financial support from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Proposals are adjudicated on creativity, viability, sustainability, and ways in which projects address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Eligible student teams are invited to apply through their school music departments.

The competition will be held in two rounds via Zoom webinar:
- **Preliminary Round** at 7:30pm EST Tuesday, December 5, 2023
- **Final Round** (open to the general public with registration) at 7:30pm EST Tuesday, February 6, 2023. Teams selected for the Final Round will receive two coaching sessions with mentors from members of the CMS Board and Global Council to further refine their proposals in preparation for the Final Round.

**Up to 5 teams** will be selected as winners and will receive a grant in the amount of up to $1000 paid to the team’s school or program and four additional coaching sessions with CMS artist mentors to implement their proposed projects by **Friday, May 24, 2024**.

For more information about past winning projects, click [here](#).

Submission deadline is **5:00pm EST, Friday, November 3, 2023** via the online form linked below.

**ELIGIBILITY**
All students must attend a public or private school, home school consortium, or after-school music programs (where schools do not have a full-time music program) in the tri-state area or the cities of Miami, FL or Philadelphia, PA to be eligible for the competition. Applications must be submitted by a teacher from the department or after-school music program on behalf of the team who agrees to serve as the point of contact for the team.

Each school, homeschool consortium, or after-school program may submit **no more than 3 teams of 2 to 5 students** for consideration. To best support chamber music instruction in school music programs, the Young Musicians Innovation Challenge is only for teams meeting the following guidelines:

- All students in the ensemble must attend the same school, home-school consortium, or after-school program at the time of application
- Submitted projects must not have been selected as a winner or for an honorable mention to a previous round of the Young Musicians Innovation Challenge. Submissions which expand upon a previously awarded project are permissible
- The application must be submitted by the school music teacher on behalf of their students
- The program is not open to community music schools
PROJECT PITCH VIDEO
Each project application should include a “pitch” video no longer than 2 minutes in duration describing the project, how it will contribute to the world of chamber music, and how the project will be implemented if selected for support.

The video should include all members of the team speaking to these points with each members’ role in the project clearly identified.

Videos should be uploaded to YouTube as an “unlisted video” via a Gmail or YouTube account (available for free). The link to the video should be provided in the online application form detailed below.

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.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND BUDGET
Each project application must include a written short description, impact summary, projected timeline, and budget (including secured sources of funding if total project budget exceeds $1000) as indicated in the application form below.

Projects may either end by Friday, May 24, 2024 (i.e. a chamber music concert initiative) or may be launched by May 24, 2024 and continue as a recurring project (i.e. an annual concert series or a podcast). Projects which propose to extend beyond Friday, May 24, 2024 should indicate how funding will be secured to sustain the project beyond that date in the project description.

APPLICATION
Click here to access the online application form. The form will allow you to save your progress and return to the form before submission. An email will be sent to you with a link to return to your partially completed form once you click “Save” on the bottom of each application page.
The application requests the following information:

- School/homeschool consortium/after-school music program name, address, phone
- Principal/homeschool consortium administrator name
- Teacher name, phone, email address
- Student personnel names and grades for each team submitted and indicate the team leader for each team

To assist us in the application process, please name YouTube video with the following format:

**School Name_Project Title**

Example: Pleasantville_A_New_Approach_to_Repertoire_Guides

If submitting more than one project, please complete a separate online form for each project (you will be able to make multiple submissions on the online form with a single e-mail address).

**PRELIMINARY ROUND**

Each team selected for the Preliminary Round Zoom webinar will be asked to present their projects for the Preliminary Round Panel. At this round, the original video submission for each team will be screened for the Panel and members of the team will be asked questions about their projects.

Each team must designate a team leader who will be responsible for making sure team members join the webinar on time, who will serve as spokesperson for the team, and defer to other team members as needed when answering questions from the panel.

Teachers, families, and students from their schools may attend the Preliminary Round webinar.

**COACHING SESSIONS**

Each team selected for the Final Round will receive two, one-hour coaching sessions via Zoom with a mentor from the CMS Board and Global Council of CMS at a time convenient for everyone. Each team will be required to submit a revised “pitch” video reflecting the input from the coaching session to be screened during the Final Round Panel.

**FINAL ROUND**

The Final Round will be held as a Zoom webinar open to the general public with registration. Each team selected for the Final Round will have their second video screened for the Panel and answer questions. Participating teams will be notified following the Final Round of the results of the Panel’s decisions.

**AWARDS**

Up to 5 winning teams will be selected and will each receive a grant paid to their school/after school program up to $1000 and receive 4 coaching sessions via Zoom with a CMS artist mentor to implement their projects.

Each awarded team will be asked to complete a Project Report following the completion/launch of each awarded project describing how the project’s stated goals were achieved, accompanied by an expenditure report with supporting receipts.
Grants will be paid to the school or program of winning teams in the form of a reimbursement for expenses incurred up to May 24, 2024 upon submission of the project report and accompanying receipts. If expenses are incurred before the launch/completion of the project, the school or program of the winning team is asked to budget for those expenses to be later reimbursed by CMS.

Any winning team making changes to their proposed project or budget during the implementation of their project must receive prior approval from CMS.

CREDITS AND PERMISSIONS
All selected teams will be asked to credit CMS in any publicity materials related to their projects and permit CMS to use any content generated from the project for promotional purposes. Teams and participating Schools will be permitted to share their projects or content generated from the projects with other parties.

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 3, 2023, 5:00 PM EST</td>
<td>Submission deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Friday, November 10, 2023</td>
<td>Instructors notified of the results of the selection process for the Preliminary Round</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 7:30 PM EST</td>
<td>Preliminary Round (via Zoom Webinar)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December-January 2024</td>
<td>Coaching sessions with each team selected for the Final Round (via Zoom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, January 29, 2024, 5:00 PM EST</td>
<td>Deadline for Team Finalists to submit their revised pitch videos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 7:30 PM EST</td>
<td>Final Round (via Zoom webinar – open to the public with registration)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February – May 2024</td>
<td>Coaching sessions for awarded teams (via Zoom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 24, 2024</td>
<td>Deadline for awarded teams to complete projects, submit project report and receipts for reimbursement</td>
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QUESTIONS?
Contact:
Matthew Tommasini
Director of Education and Community Engagement
Phone: (212) 875-5793
mtommasini@chambermusicsociety.org