



4th Annual Young Musicians Innovation Challenge

For High School Musicians in the Tri-State Area

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: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:30 PM EST**
- **Final Round: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 7:30 PM EST**

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**.

Projects may either end by 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 May 24, 2024 should indicate how funding will be secured to sustain the project beyond that date in the project description.

Application submissions are due **Friday, November 3, 2023 at 5:00 PM EST** via the online form linked [here](#).

ELIGIBILITY

All participating students must attend a public or private school, home school consortium, or after-school music program (where schools do not have a full-time music program) in the tri-state area. This competition is not open to community music schools. **Each school, homeschool consortium, or after-school program may submit no more than 3 teams for consideration.**

The Young Musicians Innovation Challenge is only for teams meeting the following guidelines:

- All students are in **grades 9-12**
- Teams are made up of **2-5 students**
- **All students must attend the same school, home-school consortium, or after-school program** located in the **tri-state area** 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.

PAST WINNING PROJECTS

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

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Each team selected for the Preliminary Round Zoom webinar will be asked to present their projects for the 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 Project “Pitch” Video reflecting the input from the coaching session to be screened during the Final Round Panel.

FINAL ROUND

Each team selected for the Final Round Zoom webinar will have their revised Project “Pitch” Video screened for the Panel. Members of the team will be asked questions about their projects. The public may attend the Final Round webinar with [registration](#). Following the Final Round, participating teams will be notified of the results of the Panel’s decision.

AWARDS

Up to 5 winning teams will be selected and will each receive a grant of up to \$1000 paid to their school/after-school program. Grants will be paid 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.

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, November 3, 2023, 5:00 PM EST	Application submission deadline
Friday, November 10, 2023	Instructors notified of the results of the selection process for the Preliminary Round
Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 7:30 PM EST	Preliminary Round via Zoom webinar
December 2023 – January 2024	Coaching sessions with each team selected for the Final Round via Zoom
Friday, January 29, 2024, 5:00 PM EST	Deadline for Team Finalists to submit their revised pitch videos
Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 7:30 PM EST	Final Round via Zoom webinar
February – May 2024	Coaching sessions for awarded teams via Zoom
Friday, May 24, 2024	Deadline for awarded teams to complete projects, submit project report and receipts for reimbursement

APPLICATION

Click [here](#) to access the online application form. **Applications must be submitted by a teacher from the department or after-school music program on behalf of the team.** The teacher will serve as the point of contact between CMS and participating students.

Please only submit one application per team. If submitting more than one project, please complete a separate form for each project. You will be able to make multiple submissions with a single email address.

The application requests the following information:

- School/homeschool consortium/after-school music program name and address
- Principal/administrator name
- Teacher name, email, phone number
- Project Information
 - Project title
 - Short description of the project (limit 100 words)
 - Impact summary of the project (limit 500 words)
 - Projected timeline
 - Budget (including secured sources of funding if total project budget exceeds \$1000)
- Team Information
 - Student names, pronouns, grades, and short biography (limit 150 words)
- Unlisted YouTube link for the Project “Pitch” Video (instructions below)
- Media Consent Forms signed by a parent/guardian for all participating students under the age of 18

The form will allow you to save your progress and return to your application before submission. To return to your submission, click the “Save” button on the bottom of each application page. This will automatically generate an email with a link to continue working on the application.

PROJECT “PITCH” VIDEO

Each project application must 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). 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 title YouTube video in the following format:

- School Name - Project Title
- Pleasantville - A New Approach to Repertoire Guides

QUESTIONS?

Email: education@chambermusicsociety.org

Phone: (212) 875-5776