



The Richard Wagner Society of the Upper Midwest (RWSUM)

Music in Action Grant Overview

Program Purpose

Music in Action is a project grant designed to provide financial support for local musicians while addressing the greater need for hope, healing, and community exposed by the killing of George Floyd. The intent of this grant is to supply musicians with the funds needed to create a concert program and retain fair compensation for their performances. Projects must be pre-recorded and will be premiered virtually, with video hosting provided by RWSUM. Proposals should demonstrate the applicant's dedication to spark healing, humanity, and joy through the vocal arts. Though not an eligibility requirement, this program especially values the stories and opinions of BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and persons with disabilities. We encourage applicants who identify as such to apply.

Application Deadline

All applications, including supporting materials, must be received no later than midnight on Saturday, September 26.

Award Amount

\$1,000-\$2,500

Grant Program Outcomes

Twin Cities artists connect with their self-defined communities through virtual concert programming that addresses the need for hope, healing, and community.

How to Apply/Contact Information

- The application can be accessed at: <https://www.wagnertc.org/Music-in-Action>
- Please send the following materials **as a PDF** to: Michael_Ruppert@hotmail.com
 - Grant Application
 - Budget
 - Supplemental materials (bio, press, resume, etc.)
- Video or audio links should be clearly marked in the body of your email. Use the following format: NAME, TITLE: LINK
- Please direct any questions to our **Program Coordinator**, Michael Ruppert, at Michael_Ruppert@hotmail.com.

Earliest Expenditure Date/Project Completion Date

Grant contracts will be sent out by Monday, October 26. Funds will be dispersed upon receipt of signed contract. Grant funds cannot be used to pay for expenses accrued before the grant contract is

signed. Project end date must match the end date given in your grant application unless written permission is given by RWSUM.

Eligibility

- Applicant must be an individual artist. Organizations or individuals submitting on behalf of an organization will not be considered. Project may include other individuals (e.g. accompanist).
- Live in the Twin Cities seven-county metro area.
- Must have loss of income from performance related activities due to COVID-19.
- Must be a US Citizen, have attained permanent resident status, or be legally able to work in the US.

Proposal Sections and Guidelines

● **Applicant Information**

- This section details contact information, eligibility requirements, and funding amounts. Besides the verification of applicant eligibility, this section is not weighted in our decision making process.

● **Work Samples**

- Work Samples can be audio, video, press, or written documentation which represents the applicant's artistic ability, accomplishments, and creativity.
 - Audio and video samples should be sent as a link via email along with your application. Use the following format: NAME, TITLE: LINK

● **Artist Statement**

- The artist statement should not be a bio or resume, but should demonstrate how the applicant's artistry aligns with RWSUM's **Program Purpose** (above).
 - How does your work as an artist relate to our goals of hope, healing, and community?

● **Project Narrative**

- The narrative should be centered on your proposed concert program.
 - Directly address your selections, and why you chose them.
- Your concert program should be submitted as a supplemental document.
 - Please include the estimated time length. Ideally, the concert should be 45-60 minutes long.
- All genres of music are welcome, so long as your selections fulfill our **Program Purpose** and address your **Community Connection** (see next section).

● **Community Connection/Intended Audience**

- It is important to RWSUM that we fund applicants with a demonstrated connection to a Twin Cities community.
 - "Community" here is a broad definition. It may include a neighborhood, a demographic of people, or any other definition of a group of people with similar characteristics. What is important to us is that **you** define your **Community Connection**.

- How will your proposed program address and engage your community?
- What tangible ties do you have to your community that will contribute to your project's effectiveness?
 - E.g., ability to share concert stream via schools, community centers, non-profits; neighborhood movie night; dedicated social media presence.
- **Outcomes**
 - What are your proposed outcomes for this project?
 - How will you measure those outcomes?
 - Outcome measurement should be tangible (surveys, reviews, etc.)
- **Technological Capacity**
 - Please use this section to address how you plan to record. This section is primarily to address the additional feasibility concerns that accompany pre-recorded performances.
 - If you do not currently have access to the technology needed to record your project, how does your budget address this?
- **Budget**
 - This section does not need to be elaborate, but a budget gives our committee insight into the feasibility of your project, and the funding you will need to be successful. Items we will consider include:
 - Are all artists (including you, the applicant) being paid a fair performance fee?
 - Are all production logistics covered (venue, recording technology, personnel, etc.)?
 - Are there any costs which cannot yet be estimated?

Statement on Technology

RWSUM understands the sudden increase in need for increased recording technology within the arts community. We understand that the vast majority of artists impacted by COVID-19 cannot personally afford to purchase or rent this technology. Our desire is for *Music in Action* to be as accessible as possible. We encourage all applicants to use whatever recording technology they have, but to also know that the purchase or rental of additional equipment is an allowable grant expense. Just be sure to include it in your budget.

Other Information

- RWSUM will use the full extent of our contact lists to promote funded projects. Grantees are expected to advertise to their own audience as well.
- RWSUM will provide video hosting on Vimeo or a similar online hosting service. Grantees are encouraged to cross-stream using this video for increased audience engagement.

Contact

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. You can reach our Program Coordinator, Michael Ruppert, at: Michael_Ruppert@hotmail.com