

Opera Grants for Female Composers: Discovery Grants 2020-2021

OPERA America

Application Overview

Application deadline: January 12, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET

Applications adjudicated: February 2021

Grantees notified: March 2021

For more information, please refer to the grant guidelines

<https://operaamerica.org/Files/OADocs/GrantPDFs/2020%20Discovery%20Grant%20Guidelines.pdf>here (link).

Contact Kristal Pacific, director of social equity and grantmaking, at KPacific@operaamerica.org for questions.

Work Information

Work title*

Title or working title of the opera in development

Character Limit: 150

Composer First Name*

Character Limit: 100

Composer Last Name*

Character Limit: 100

Composer website

Character Limit: 2000

Librettist First Name*

Character Limit: 100

Librettist Last Name*

Character Limit: 100

Librettist website

Character Limit: 2000

Work summary*

Submit a plot summary of the work associated with the application. If awarded, this description will be included in a press release.

Character Limit: 2000

Intellectual property

“Existing work” includes items such as a novel, short story, film, or life story. Please select the appropriate choice from the menu below.

Choices

This opera is my own original work.

This opera is based on an existing work that is in the public domain.

This opera is based on existing work protected by copyright. I have secured rights to this material.

This opera is based on existing work protected by copyright for which I have not secured rights.

Rights Documentation

If the work is based on an existing work protected by copyright, please attach rights documentation. If rights documentation is not available, your application will be deemed incomplete and unable to proceed to the adjudication phase.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Roles*

List the cast by role and voice type. For example, in an opera adaptation of The Avengers, a cast list might look like this: Captain Marvel, Soprano; Black Widow, Mezzo-Soprano; Spiderman, Tenor; Black Panther, Baritone; The Hulk, Bass. For a list of common voice types in opera, please click [here](#). You are welcome to include non-traditional/alternate voice types, and may explain those choices below.

Character Limit: 1500

Chorus*

Does this work utilize a chorus? If so, indicate the number of singers in the chorus by voice type (e.g., Soprano: 4, Alto: 2, Tenor: 6, Bass: 1).

Character Limit: 750

Instrumentation*

Please list the instruments you will utilize in your work (e.g., “I will write for 1 piano, 1 violin, 1 viola, 1 cello and 1 Iranian santur”).

Character Limit: 2000

Subject matter*

Why are you drawn to create this work at this time?

Character Limit: 1000

Creative impetus*

Why did you choose to tell this story as an opera?

Provide a brief statement explaining the reasons for being drawn to the operatic medium.

Character Limit: 1000

Provide a scenic breakdown of the opera*

You may use either a character/scene breakdown, storyboard or dramaturgical outline that narrates the theatrical arc of the work. [Click here \(link\)](#) for an example.

Character Limit: 10000

Creative Team

Composer biography and resume*

The biography should be narrative and limited to 1,000 characters. The resume should be uploaded as a PDF.

Character Limit: 1000 / File Size Limit: 1 MB

Identity (optional)

To better understand the demographics of OPERA America's applicant pool and evaluate the impact of our grant programs, we invite you to select all of the terms that you use to self-identify, racially or ethnically, from the list below. The choices below are not exhaustive, or intended to be limiting or prescriptive. You will also have the opportunity to write-in additional or alternate responses in the "Other" category.

Choices

Black

Hispanic/Latinx

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian

Arab/Middle Eastern/North African

Native American

White

Other

I prefer not to respond

Identity, continued (optional)

If you selected "Other" from the checklist above, please write-in alternate or additional words you use to describe your racial or ethnic identity below.

Character Limit: 500

Librettist biography and resume

The biography should be in narrative form and limited to 1,000 characters. The resume should be uploaded as a PDF.

If the composer is also the sole librettist, please leave this blank.

Character Limit: 2000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB

Opera creator collaboration*

Please describe the composer and librettist relationship. Have you worked together previously? Why have you chosen each other? If the composer and/or librettist have not previously written an opera, please explain the artist(s)' motivations for writing in this medium.

If you are both the composer and the librettist, please describe your reason for serving in both roles.

Character Limit: 1000

Have you previously applied for a Discovery Grant?

Please list the name of the project (if different) and the year(s) that you applied. If this is the same project as your previous application(s), please articulate the changes or progress made since your last submission.

If this is your first time applying for a Discovery Grant, reply "N/A."

Character Limit: 1500

In the following section, please upload biographies for any other creative or performing artists associated with this project (e.g., stage director, conductor and/or music director, lighting designer, set designer, dramaturg).

You are not required to have a full creative production team in place at this time.

Artist 1

In the text section, provide the name and role of the artist, and then upload the biography.

Character Limit: 100 | File Size Limit: 1 MB

Artist 2

In the text section, provide the name and role of the artist, and then upload the biography.

Character Limit: 100 | File Size Limit: 1 MB

Artist 3

In the text section, provide the name and role of the artist, and then upload the biography.

Character Limit: 100 | File Size Limit: 1 MB

Artist 4

In the text section, provide the name and role of the artist, and then upload the biography.

Character Limit: 100 | File Size Limit: 1 MB

Artist 5

In the text section, provide the name and role of the artist, and then upload the biography.

Character Limit: 100 | File Size Limit: 1 MB

Project Information

Project description*

Describe the specific developmental activities for which funding will be used. In addition, provide a justification for why you wish to do the specific developmental activity. Where will it take place? What kind of audience (if any) will be present? What are your/the creative team's goals and expected outcomes in the short and long term? Who is involved in the feedback/evaluation process?

Character Limit: 1000

Proposed project start date*

The grant funded activities may start on or after May 1, 2021.

Character Limit: 10

Proposed project end date*

The grant funded activities must conclude by June 30, 2022.

Character Limit: 10

Project type*

This is the project type as indicated in your letter of intent. For more guidance on eligible activities, please refer to the grant guidelines [here](#) (link).

Choices

Lab production
Workshop
Reading
Working performance
Other

Other project type

If you selected Other, please describe your project here.

Character Limit: 250

Describe the project for which you are applying.*

Please expand on the specific project activities proposed in the letter of intent. For reference on the range of activities eligible for funding, please refer to the list of examples in the grant guidelines [here](#).

Character Limit: 1750

Timeline

Provide a timeline for the development of the work, including the activities for which you are requesting funding. An example of a timeline is included below for your reference.

June 2021: Creative team meeting with composer, librettist, and dramaturg

August 2021: Libretto reading

September 2021 – May 2022: Revisions to the libretto, completion of excerpts or full piano/vocal score for workshop

June 2022: Piano/vocal workshop (5 days), recorded by videographers (day 6)

Post-workshop: Creative design meeting with the stage director, librettist, composer, and media designer

This is an example. Your timeline may include other activities.

Character Limit: 2000

Has this work been commissioned?*

If so, by whom? If not, reply "N/A."

Character Limit: 1000

Budget

Funding Parameters Review

The size of an individual grant will vary according to the project's total costs as defined in the summary budget. Additional expenses to complete the project are the responsibility of the composer.

Grants will cover up to 100 percent of **eligible expenses**, not exceeding \$15,000; no matching funds are required. Only coach-class airfare will be covered by grants for applications requesting air transportation.

The Discovery portion of this program does not fund:

- Commissioning fees or direct payments to composers;
- Institutional overhead expenses if partnering with an organization;
- Expenses that are not connected specifically to a project, including general administrative expenses and competition or contest application fees;

- Tuition expenses;
- Professional development fees;
- Fundraising expenses;
- Ticket subsidies;
- Set, costume or properties construction or rental expenses for a fully staged production; and/or
- Any other expenses incurred in relation to a fully produced premiere for public presentation.

Below is a sample breakdown for a potential project funding a piano workshop. This is just one proposed model to show how it could break down. No line item contains a standardized rate because there aren't any. The best suggestion for budget layout is to take the budget you have available, start with the highest responsibilities/fees, and work down from there.

5 day workshop for new opera based on a budget of \$14,000

Piano workshop in NYC. No travel or housing costs required.

5 days of workshop with public/invited event on last day

6 hrs per day (2x3 hour sessions; i.e. 10-1 and 2-5 with one hour break)

\$2000 - Conductor/Music director (1 person)

\$2000 - Stage Director

\$1500 - Piano/Coach (1 person)

\$1250 - Dramaturg

\$1250 - Stage Manager \$1250

\$3750 - 3 singers - Principal roles (\$1250 each)

\$2250 - 3 singers - secondary/ensemble roles (\$750 each)

This is an example. There are many factors that would influence the line items differently in your unique project.

Budget upload*

Please click [here](#) (link) to access the Discovery Budget Worksheet. Then click "Save As" under the File Tab on the top left corner to Download a Copy of the worksheet to your computer. Fill in the applicable budget lines, save your changes, and upload the file to the link below (in excel format).

This budget worksheet covers many possible expenses in various developmental scenarios. Do not assume that every line should have an associated expense. There are three "other" lines in each budgetary section to add other fees.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Total requested funding*

The Discovery Grant may fund up to \$15,000 of the total budget. The number provided is the amount originally submitted in your letter of intent. Please adjust this according to the final budget submitted with this application.

Character Limit: 20

Total project expenses*

Please input the total project expenses according to the budget you uploaded.

Character Limit: 20

Work Samples

Please provide two high-quality audio and/or visual recordings of your work. A corresponding score and/or libretto, with detailed notations, must accompany each submission. Applications without complete work samples will not be advanced for consideration.

MANDATORY GUIDELINES:

- At least one of the samples must be from a theatrical work for voice(s) and instrumental ensemble.
- All A/V media must be uploaded to a streaming or hosting site.
 - Audio: Bandcamp or Dropbox are preferred.
 - Video: Youtube or Vimeo are preferred.
 - **Please remember to provide a password if the link is "private."**
- Submit a score that corresponds with each excerpt. Scores may only be submitted as PDFs. Hard copies, .MUS or other formats are not accepted.
- The total timing of the musical selections should not exceed 30 minutes.

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES

- Provide only the materials required. Trim samples to the specific excerpt that you would like to be considered.
- If you are not trimming the samples as suggested above, clearly mark the timings in the notes (e.g., "Play from 3:22-7:49").
- Remove unnecessary pages from the scores, and clearly mark where the selection begins.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit excerpts from the work being submitted, if available.

- **MIDI recordings are strongly discouraged.** In specific very high-quality renderings, they may be accepted, but any auto-generated midi from Sibelius, Finale or similar programs will not be considered appropriate work samples.
- The quality of the sample is paramount. A refined audio sample is more compelling than a poorly captured video.
- If you are scoring for ensemble, please submit some evidence that you can write for multiple instruments

SAMPLE 1

Sample 1 title*

Character Limit: 100

Sample 1 composer*

Character Limit: 100

Sample 1 librettist*

Character Limit: 100

Sample 1 description/annotation*

Include roles, voicing, information about this work sample, and credit performing artists. Also, describe why you chose this specific work sample and include timings for guided listening.

Example:

SOPRANO, Sally Singer

BASS, Bobby Baritone

Excerpt: 38:50-42:13

It's raining. In this duet, Sally Singer tries to encourage young Bobby Baritone to continue his opera career in New York, but Bobby Baritone longs to go back home to Kansas to be with his family. This work sample shows my ability to write for various voice types and the orchestral music demonstrates my ability to dictate complex emotions -- in this case longing and indecisiveness.

Character Limit: 1000

Sample 1 A/V link*

Character Limit: 2000

Sample 1 A/V password (if necessary)

Character Limit: 100

Sample 1 score*

Upload the score below and provide any relevant notes about the score here.

Character Limit: 1000 / File Size Limit: 3 MB

SAMPLE 2

Sample 2 title*

Character Limit: 100

Sample 2 composer*

Character Limit: 100

Sample 2 librettist*

Character Limit: 100

Sample 2 description/annotation*

Include roles, voicing, information about this work sample, and credit performing artists. Also, describe why you chose this specific work sample and include timings for guided listening.

Example:

SOPRANO, Sally Singer

BASS, Bobby Baritone

Excerpt: 38:50-42:13

It's raining. In this duet, Sally Singer tries to encourage young Bobby Baritone to continue his opera career in New York, but Bobby Baritone longs to go back home to Kansas to be with his family. This work sample shows my ability to write for various voice types and the orchestral music demonstrates my ability to dictate complex emotions -- in this case longing and indecisiveness.

Character Limit: 1000

Sample 2 A/V link*

Character Limit: 2000

Sample 2 A/V password (if necessary)

Character Limit: 100

Sample 2 score*

Upload the score below and provide any relevant notes about the score here.

Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 3 MB

Libretto*

Please upload as much of the libretto as is available. A partial or libretto outline is acceptable.

File Size Limit: 4 MB

Other Materials

PRESS RELEASE

The following materials are requested for the purpose of OPERA America's public announcement of the grant recipients. This section of your application will not be visible to the adjudication panel and the information contained therein will not be publicized unless your application is awarded.

Your name, as you would like it to appear in the press.*

Character Limit: 250

Headshot*

Please upload your high-resolution headshot or provide an access link here, including the photographer credit.

Character Limit: 500 / File Size Limit: 3 MB

Signature*

By typing your name below, you acknowledge that the information contained in this application and its attachments is accurate and complete.

Character Limit: 100