

# Opera Grants for Women Composers: Discovery Grants 2022-2023

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*OPERA America*

## *Application Overview*

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### **Important Dates**

Application available online: December 2022

Intent to apply deadline: December 22, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET

Application deadline: January 20, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. ET

Application adjudication: February 2023

Grantee notification: March 2023

Grant Activity Period: April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Contact Diana Hossack, director of granting at [DHossack@operaamerica.org](mailto:DHossack@operaamerica.org) for questions.

## *Applicant Information*

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### **Composer First Name**

*Character Limit: 150*

### **Composer Last Name**

*Character Limit: 250*

### **Composer Citizenship Status**

Indicate if you have United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

#### **Choices**

Yes

No

### **Composer Racial/Ethnic Identity**

Tell us how you identify racially or ethnically:

Arab — includes those who identify with one or more nationalities originating in the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring territories, inhabiting much of the Middle East and North Africa.

Asian — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in the Far East, Indian subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.

Black — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in any of the

Black racial groups of Africa, including African American, Caribbean, Latin American, etc.

Latinx — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Central America, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South America, and other Latin nations.

Native American — includes those who identify as Aboriginal peoples, First Nations, Indigenous peoples, and/or Native peoples of the Americas with tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Pacific Islander — includes those who identify with nationalities and ethnic groups originating in Guam, Hawaii, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White

The above is not an exhaustive list.

Please select all that apply.

### Choices

Arab

Asian

Black

Latinx

Native American

Pacific Islander

White

Additional

### Additional - Composer Racial and Ethnic Identity

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternative or additional words that describe how you identify racially and ethnically.

*Character Limit: 250*

### Composer Gender Identity

Please share your gender identity:

### Choices

Intersex

Man

Non-binary

Transgender

Woman

Additional

### Additional - Composer Gender Identity

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe how you gender identify.

*Character Limit: 250*

## Composer Gender Pronouns

Please share the pronouns you use in reference to yourself (e.g., she/her/hers, he/him/his, they/them/their, ze/hir/hir, she/they, he/they). To learn more about gender pronouns, click [here](#).

*Character Limit: 250*

## Composer Biography\*

The biography should be narrative and limited to 1,000 characters. You may also upload a PDF.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

## Composer Website\*

*Character Limit: 2000*

## Personal Statement

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### Personal Statement\*

Provide a brief statement explaining the reasons for being drawn to the operatic medium. What inspires your creativity?

*Character Limit: 2000*

## Teammate(s) (if applicable)

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### Librettist First Name

*Character Limit: 100*

### Librettist Last Name

*Character Limit: 100*

### Librettist Citizenship

Indicate if you have United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

#### Choices

Yes

No

### Librettist Racial/Ethnic Identity

Tell us how your librettist identifies racially or ethnically:

Arab — includes those who identify with one or more nationalities originating in the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring territories, inhabiting much of the Middle East and North Africa.

Asian — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in the Far

East, Indian subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.

Black — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in any of the Black racial groups of Africa, including African American, Caribbean, Latin American, etc.

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Native American — includes those who identify as Aboriginal peoples, First Nations, Indigenous peoples, and/or Native peoples of the Americas with tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Pacific Islander — includes those who identify with nationalities and ethnic groups originating in Guam, Hawaii, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White

The above is not an exhaustive list.

Please select all that apply.

### Choices

Arab

Asian

Black

Latinx

Native American

Pacific Islander

White

Additional

### Additional - Librettist Racial and Ethnic Identity

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe how your librettist identifies racially and ethnically.

*Character Limit: 250*

### Librettist Gender Identity

Share how the librettist gender identifies:

#### Choices

Intersex

Man

Non-binary

Transgender

Woman

Additional

### Librettist Pronouns

Please share the librettist's pronouns (e.g., she/her/her, he/him/his, they/them/their, ze/hir/hir, she/they, he/they). To learn more about gender pronouns, [click here](#).

*Character Limit: 250*

## Librettist Biography

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*

## Librettist Website

*Character Limit: 2000*

## Librettist 2 - First Name (if applicable)

*Character Limit: 250*

## Librettist 2 - Last name (if applicable)

*Character Limit: 250*

## Librettist 2 Citizenship Status

Indicate if you have United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

### Choices

Yes

No

## Librettist 2 - Racial/Ethnic Identity

Tell us how your librettist identifies racially or ethnically:

Arab — includes those who identify with one or more nationalities originating in the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring territories, inhabiting much of the Middle East and North Africa.

Asian — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in the Far East, Indian subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.

Black — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in any of the Black racial groups of Africa, including African American, Caribbean, Latin American, etc.

Latinx — includes those who identify with nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Central America, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South America, and other Latin nations.

Native American — includes those who identify as Aboriginal peoples, First Nations, Indigenous peoples, and/or Native peoples of the Americas with tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Pacific Islander — includes those who identify with nationalities and ethnic groups originating in Guam, Hawaii, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White

The above is not an exhaustive list.

Please select all that apply.

### Choices

Arab  
Asian  
Black  
Latinx  
Native American  
Pacific Islander  
White  
Additional

### Additional - Librettist 2 Racial and Ethnic Identity

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe how the second librettist identifies racially and ethnically.

*Character Limit: 250*

### Librettist 2 Gender Identity

Share how the second librettist gender identifies:

#### Choices

Intersex  
Man  
Non-binary  
Transgender  
Woman  
Additional

### Additional - Librettist 2 Gender Identity

If you selected "Additional" from the checklist above, please write in alternate or additional words that describe how the second librettist gender identifies.

*Character Limit: 250*

### Librettist 2 - Gender Pronouns

Please share the librettist's pronouns (e.g., she/her/her, he/him/his, they/them/their, ze/hir/hir, she/they, he/they). To learn more about gender pronouns, [click here](#).

*Character Limit: 250*

### Librettist 2 Biography

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*

### Librettist 2 Website

*Character Limit: 2000*

## Creative Team

*File Size Limit: 1 MB*

### Creator Collaboration\*

Describe the composer and librettist(s)' relationship. Have you worked together previously? Why have you chosen each other for this project? 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 and email addresses 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 1 Email

*Character Limit: 254*

### 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 2 Email

*Character Limit: 254*

### 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 3 Email

*Character Limit: 254*

### 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 4 Email

*Character Limit: 254*

### 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*

### Artist 5 Email

*Character Limit: 254*

## Work Samples

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Applicants are required to submit work samples that best represent their voices and creative styles.

Work samples need not be classical or operatic.

Samples that demonstrate the creator's aptitude for theatrical storytelling are recommended.

Two compositional samples (hosted audio or video on sites like YouTube, Vimeo, Dropbox, and SoundCloud) with at least one sample featuring voice(s) (not digitally generated).

Combined samples must be no longer than 20 minutes. Neither sample should exceed 10 minutes in length.

Scores or other forms of visual representation of a musical work are optional.

### SAMPLE 1

#### Sample 1 Title\*

*Character Limit: 100*

#### Sample 1 Composer\*

*Character Limit: 100*



**Sample 1 Librettist\****Character Limit: 100***Sample 1 A/V Link\****Character Limit: 2000***Sample 1 A/V Password (if necessary)***Character Limit: 100***Sample 1 Timings**

If you are not providing trimmed samples to the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., Play from 3'22 - 7'49").

*Character Limit: 250***Sample 1 Relevance\***

Is this sample from the proposed work? If not, indicate how this sample relates to the proposed project.

*Character Limit: 250***Sample 1 Description/Annotation\*****Example:**

SOPRANO, Sally Singer

BASS, Bobby Baritone

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.

*Character Limit: 1000***Sample 1 Score or Chart (optional)**

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

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 6 MB***SAMPLE 2****Sample 2 Title\****Character Limit: 100***Sample 2 Composer\****Character Limit: 100***Sample 2 Librettist\****Character Limit: 100*

## Sample 2 A/V Link\*

*Character Limit: 2000*

## Sample 2 A/V Password (if necessary)

*Character Limit: 100*

## Sample 2 Timings\*

If you are not providing trimmed samples to the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed, please provide suggested timings (e.g., from 3'22" to 7'49").

*Character Limit: 250*

## Sample 2 Relevance\*

Is this sample from the proposed work? If not, please indicate how the sample relates to the proposed project.

*Character Limit: 250*

## Sample 2 Description/Annotation\*

Share information about this sample, including roles, voicing, and performing credits.

### Example:

SOPRANO, Sally Singer

BASS, Bobby Baritone

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.

*Character Limit: 1000*

## Sample 2 Score or Chart (optional)

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

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 4 MB*

## Libretto\*

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

*File Size Limit: 4 MB*

## Work Information

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### Work Title\*

Title or working title of the opera in development

*Character Limit: 250*

## Work Summary\*

Submit a plot summary of the work associated with the application.

*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 is my original work.

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

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

This is based on existing work that is in public domain. Rights do not need to be secured.

## 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 with music?

*Character Limit: 1000*

### Scenic Breakdown\*

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

*Character Limit: 10000*

## Project Information

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### 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: 1750*

### Proposed Project Start Date\*

The grant-funded activities may start on or after April 1, 2023.

*Character Limit: 10*

### Proposed Project End Date\*

The grant-funded activities must conclude by June 30, 2024.

*Character Limit: 10*

### Project Activity Type\*

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

#### Choices

Libretto Reading  
Workshop  
Working Performance  
Other

### Other - Project Activity Type

If you selected Other, please describe your project here.

*Character Limit: 250*

### 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.

February 2023: Creative team meeting with composer, librettist, and dramaturg

April 2023: Libretto reading

May - October 2023: Revisions to the libretto, completion of excerpts or full piano/vocal score for workshop

Late October 2023: 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

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### Funding Parameters

- Grants of up to \$15,000 will be awarded.
- Funding may not be applied to expenses incurred before April 1, 2023.
- Grant activities must be completed by June 30, 2024.
- Grants will cover up to 100 percent of eligible expenses, not exceeding \$15,000; no matching funds are required.
- Additional expenses that exceed the amount granted are the responsibility of the composer.
- Eligible expenses include but are not limited to:
  - Vocalist, instrumentalist, and other performer fees;
  - Music director/conductor;
  - Dramaturg;
  - Orchestrator, arranger, copyist;
  - Stage director;
  - Vocal coach;
  - Sound designer;
  - Rehearsal and workshop venue rental fees;
  - Stage manager;
  - Equipment rental (e.g., lighting, sound, instrumental cartage);

- o Living expenses for the applicant (up to 25 percent of grant request);
  - o Childcare and/or eldercare while creators are in rehearsal or workshop;
  - o Research materials (e.g., performance tickets, new work recordings, reference books); and
  - o Transportation and housing for personnel related to creative meetings, rehearsals, and performances. (Airfare is limited to coach class.)
- Ineligible expenses include:
    - o Commissioning fees to composers and librettists;
    - o Institutional overhead expenses if partnering with an organization;
    - o Expenses that are not connected specifically to a project, including general administrative expenses and competition or contest application fees;
    - o Tuition expenses;
    - o Professional development fees;
    - o Fundraising expenses;
    - o Ticket subsidies;
    - o Set, costume, or properties construction or rental expenses for a fully staged production; and
    - o Any other expenses incurred in relation to a fully produced premiere for public presentation.

### Sample

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

\$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.

*Character Limit: 20*

### Total Project Expenses\*

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

*Character Limit: 20*

## Other Materials

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### 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*

