

Opera Grants for Women Composers: Discovery Grants - 2025-2026

OPERA America

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Generously supported by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation

This program supports women composers in their exploration of opera as an artistic medium, providing funding for activities such as libretto readings, workshops, and working performances. The maximum request accepted is \$15,000.

Timeline

Intent to apply deadline: December 18, 2025, 11:59 p.m. ET

Required for access to full application

Application deadline: January 22, 2026, 11:59 p.m. ET

Grantees notified: February 2026

Grant period: April 1, 2026 - June 30, 2028

To access the grant guidelines, please click **here**. Please read the guidelines in full before applying.

Applicant Information

Composer and Librettist

Throughout this application, the author of the music will be referred to as the composer, and the author of the text will be referred to as the librettist, although applicants may have prior experience as songwriters, poets, or playwrights.

The composer is considered the applicant for all submissions.

Applications submitted on behalf of a project with more than one composer, and/or that represent the efforts of a collective, are allowed. However, for the purposes of this grant program, the applicant will be considered the sole representative of the project and the sole recipient of any grant award.

Composer First Name*

Character Limit: 250

Composer Surname/Family Name**Character Limit: 250***Composer Email****Character Limit: 254***Composer Citizenship Status***

Indicate if you are a United States citizen or permanent resident, or possess Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status. Please note: This question is required by OPERA America's funding partner because they do not make grants outside of the U.S.

Choices

Yes

No

Applicant Gender Identity*

Do you identify as a woman composer?

Choices

Yes

Applicant 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****Teammate (if applicable)***

Teammate First Name*Character Limit: 150***Teammate Surname/Family Name***Character Limit: 250***Teammate Creator Type**

Check all that apply.

Choices

Composer

Librettist

Teammate Email*Character Limit: 254*

Teammate 2 First Name

Character Limit: 250

Teammate 2 Surname/Family Name

Character Limit: 250

Teammate 2 Creator Type

Check all that apply.

Choices

Composer

Librettist

Teammate 2 Email

Character Limit: 254

Collectives

Is your work created as part of a collective? That is, where multiple artists share creative responsibilities in a way that is not captured using only the composer and librettist categories. Briefly describe your working arrangement.

If this does not apply, indicate N/A.

Character Limit: 750

Work Information

Work Title*

Provide the 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. (You will be given an opportunity to describe the work in greater detail in the full 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 drop-down menu below.

Choices

This is my own 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 the public domain. Rights do not need to be secured.

Rights Documentation

If the opera is based on an existing work protected by copyright, please attach rights documentation or outline the timeline and process for securing the rights using the space below. Rights must be secured by the full application deadline (January 22, 2026). Otherwise, the application will be deemed incomplete and unable to proceed to the adjudication phase.

Character Limit: 750 / File Size Limit: 3 MB

Project Information

Project Activity Type*

Opera Grants for Women Composers: Discovery Grants support the exploration of opera as an artistic medium through such activities as:

- A Libretto Reading: a reading in which the devised literature is read aloud for evaluation.
- A Workshop: an informal performance of some or all of a work to obtain feedback on specific elements of the piece. Workshops might be performed with piano and/or instrumental accompaniment.
- Working Performance: a partial or full run-through of a work, with piano or instrumental accompaniment, to obtain feedback for the further development of the piece. An audience may or may not be present.

The above are examples of typical developmental activities and are not meant to limit the goals of any application.

Choices

Libretto Reading

Workshop

Working Performance

Other

Other - Project Activity Type

If you selected other, please describe.

Character Limit: 500

Project Description*

Describe the specific activities for which funding will be used. (You will have the opportunity to describe the activities in greater detail in the full application.)

Character Limit: 1000

GRANT ACTIVITY PERIOD

While the development of the project may have commenced, the scope of the funded activities

proposed cannot cover expenses incurred outside of the award period, and the budget should be restricted to anticipated expenses between **April 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027**.

Proposed Project Start Date*

Funding may not be applied to expenses incurred before April 1, 2026.

Character Limit: 10

Proposed Project End Date*

Grant-funded project activities must be completed by June 30, 2027.

Character Limit: 10

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 you submitted in previous applications, please articulate the changes or progress made since your last submission. Please note: You may only submit the same work for consideration for three cycles of this granting program.

Character Limit: 1000

Other

Questions

Do you have questions or concerns about this grant or application process? You may use the space here to share your thoughts, and an OPERA America staff member will assist you.

Character Limit: 500

How Did You Learn of the Opera Grants for Women Composers: Discovery Grants?

From which organization(s) did you hear about this grant opportunity?

Choices

OPERA America

New Music USA

Philanthropy News Digest

Other

Other - How Did You Hear of Opera Grants for Women Composers: Discovery Grants?

If you selected "other," please specify.

Character Limit: 250

Channels

Through which channels did you learn of the Opera Grants for Women Composers: Discovery Grants? Check all that apply.

Choices

Colleague
Email
Facebook
Instagram
Newsletter
Professor
Website
X (formerly Twitter)
Other

Other - Channels

If you selected "other," please specify.

Character Limit: 250

Certification

Citizenship*

I certify that at least 50 percent of the team members in this proposal (including the composer/applicant) are United States citizens or permanent residents, or possess Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

Choices

Yes

Identity*

I certify that I identify as a woman composer.

Choices

Yes

Signature

Signature*

By typing my name below, I attest that I am the primary contact for this intent to apply submission. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in the intent to apply form and its attachments is accurate and complete.

Character Limit: 250