

MCKNIGHT
ARTIST
FELLOWSHIPS

2015/16 McKnight Fellowships for Musicians

Administered by MacPhail Center for Music

Founded on the belief that Minnesota thrives when its artists thrive, The McKnight Foundation's arts program is one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the country. Support for individual working Minnesota artists has been a cornerstone of the program since it began in 1981. The McKnight Artist Fellowships Program provides annual, unrestricted cash awards to outstanding mid-career Minnesota artists in 10 different creative disciplines. Program partner organizations administer the fellowships and structure them to respond to the unique challenges of different disciplines. Currently the foundation contributes about \$1.7 million per year to its statewide fellowships. For more information, visit mcknight.org/artistfellowships.

The McKnight Fellowships for Musicians are intended to reward performing musicians with a distinctive musical voice who have had a significant performing career over a period of time and are at a career stage beyond emerging. The McKnight Musician Fellowships are committed to honoring the breadth of Minnesota Musicians of all genres; aesthetically, geographically, and culturally.

If you are a performing musician in any genre, MacPhail Center for Music invites you to apply for a McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians.

About the 2015/16 McKnight Musician Fellowships

Awards:

With the generous support of the McKnight Foundation, MacPhail awards four \$25,000 fellowships to outstanding and distinctive mid-career solo artists or small ensembles/bands. A McKnight Fellowship can help an artist set aside periods of time for study, reflection, experimentation, and exploration; take advantage of an opportunity; or work on a new project. Ensembles/bands that are recognized as finalists and/or fellowship recipients will split awards between members; individual ensemble/band members will not each receive the full award amount. Awards are subject to state and federal income tax guidelines.

Panel Members:

A four-member panel consisting of experienced and well-respected music professionals selects the McKnight Musician Fellows. The panel members are performing musicians, producers, composers, directors, and educators with an appreciation for and knowledge of a diverse range of musical styles and genres. All panelists are from outside the state of Minnesota. Panelists, insofar as possible, represent a diversity of age, ethnicity, gender and geography.

The McKnight Musician Fellowship panelists remain anonymous during the selection process.

Review Process:

Applicants are evaluated and selected based on the quality of their work as evidenced in submitted materials, most importantly work samples. Distinctive musical voice, exceptional artistic merit and the content of the artist statement will be considered during the selection process.

Consideration is given to accomplishments to date as well as promise for continued development and the impact the fellowship will have on the artist. The panel will also be asked to consider the breadth of artistic practices among Minnesota musicians, which include a wide range of styles and genres, which may be influenced by ethnicity, gender, and geography.

Solo artists and ensembles/bands in all styles compete together.

First Round Selection Process:

Panelists will review the tracks submitted as a part of Work Sample A. The panel will choose approximately one-third of the applications to advance to the second round. Panelists are not given the names of applicants in the first round. Applicants who do not advance to the second round are told by email.

Second Round Selection Process:

The panelists will review the tracks submitted as a part of Work Sample A & Work Sample B, résumés and artist statements. After making individual selections from the full list of second round applicants, panelist will meet via conference call to discuss the applicants who are of greatest interest to them. Nine solo artists/ensembles/bands will be selected to perform in the live auditions on Friday, May 1, 2015. Applicants will be notified about their application status by email one month prior to the live audition date.

Finalist Auditions:

Finalists are invited to perform for the panel at MacPhail Center for Music on Friday, May 1, 2015. All finalists must be present to be considered for a fellowship on May 1st – no exceptions. Finalists receive a \$1,000 honorarium for their performance; for fellowship recipients, the honorarium is considered part of the \$25,000 award. Finalists present a live performance of no longer than 20 minutes; panelists have up to an additional 15 minutes to ask questions of and talk with each artist/ensemble/band. Panelists consider the performance and conversation with finalists alongside previously submitted materials in selecting four solo artist/ensemble/band fellowship recipients. Finalists are not required to perform works from their online submissions at the final audition. Performance times are scheduled by lottery. Finalists are notified of the judges' decision by phone no later than 9:30 p.m. on May 1st.

How to Apply

Online Application:

Access to the online application requires that you register with Mn Artists at <http://www.mnartists.org/>. After registering, enter the application through the fellowship opportunity located here: <http://www.mnartists.org/mcknight-fellowships-musicians>

Application Deadline:
Friday, January 26, 2015
3:00 p.m. CST

You will not be able to upload files after 3 p.m. CST on January 26th. At that time the system immediately stops accepting applications, even if you are in the middle of working on it.

Start your application early. Please plan ahead to make sure your system is compatible with the application process, your submitted materials are correct and functional and that you understand how the system works. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Eligibility

Please read carefully. Applicants who do not meet all of the following criteria and expectations will not be considered and should not apply.

You must (applies to all members of band/ensemble):

- Be 18 years of age or older and a resident of Minnesota, as determined by proof of residency including voting and/or payment of taxes in the state.
- Have been a legal and continuous resident of Minnesota for at least one year prior to the application deadline.
- If selected as a recipient, maintain residency in Minnesota during the fellowship year or forfeit your award moneys.
- Demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and excellence in your work.

Ensemble/Band

- Have performed together for three or more years with the same members and name as stated on the application.
- Be made up of no more than five members.
- Be an active ensemble/band, having at least four significant performances in each of the last three years.

You may not (applies to all members of band/ensemble):

- Have received a McKnight Artist Fellowship in any discipline less than five years ago. Recipients of 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014 McKnight Fellowships in any discipline are not eligible.
- Be enrolled in a degree-granting program either part-time or full-time, at an institution of higher learning, all but dissertation included.
- Apply to more than one of the ten McKnight Artist Fellowships programs per year. Doing so will disqualify applicants from consideration in any program that fellowship year.
- Apply as both a solo artist and an ensemble/band member in the same year.
- Work as fellowship staff at any McKnight Artist Fellowship program.
- Work as fellowship staff or be an immediate family member of fellowship staff at MacPhail Center for Music.
- Work at or be a board member of The McKnight Foundation. In addition, you may not be an immediate family member of foundation arts program staff.

Application Requirements

Work Samples

You must provide live or studio recordings, totaling 24 minutes of material, made in the last three years. Recordings should represent your highest quality, best work. Solo artists must submit recordings of solo performances, and ensembles/bands must submit recordings that feature all ensemble/band members listed on the application. Recordings of solo artists and ensembles/bands can include accompaniment. However, the panelists should be able to easily identify and listen to the performance of the applicant. Panelists will have the knowledge of the instrument being performed. Do not include any introductory spoken commentary on your recordings.

Work Sample A

Time requirement: 4 minutes or less

Work Sample A should include one or more of the solo artists' or ensembles'/bands' works, which when added together, do not exceed a combined total of four minutes. Fading in or fading out a recording is acceptable to avoid exceeding the time allotted. Work Sample A is the only material reviewed by the panelists in the first round.

Work Sample B

Time requirement: 20 minutes or less

Work Sample B must contain two or more additional works, which when added together, do not exceed a combined total of 20 minutes in length. Fading in or fading out of a piece of music is acceptable to avoid exceeding time allotted. The panelists will listen to Work Sample A and Work Sample B of all applicants who advance to the second round.

Applicants will be disqualified from the competition if the total time of all works included in Work Sample A exceeds 4 minutes or in Work Sample B exceeds 20 minutes.

It is recommended that all works be uploaded as individual tracks so that panelists may easily advance through the applicant's recordings.

List of Works (optional):

Applicants may submit a supplementary page listing only the names of the works and composers submitted on Work Sample A & B to be submitted as a PDF.

Artist Statement

An artist statement no longer than 500 words.

Your artist statement might address the following:

- *What is your background as a performing musician?*
- *How would you describe your distinctive musical voice?*
- *What do you see as the future of your art form and how does your work contribute to that?*
- *What are you doing as a performing musician that isn't already being done?*
- *What is next for you as an artist?*

If you are a previous McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians recipient please answer the following question:

- *How has your work developed since your last award?*

Résumé

2-pages or less and be submitted as a PDF.

Submit a current résumé pertaining to the solo artist's or ensemble's/band's music career that highlights your professional accomplishments and achievements including performances, recordings, awards and grants. Ensemble/band résumés must include at least 12 significant performances (4 per year) from the 3 years prior to the application deadline.

At the top of your résumé please include each applicants name (up to 5 for bands/ensembles), the solo artist's/ensemble's/band's name, and corresponding instrument/s.

Résumés may not include: email addresses, web site addresses, quotes or reviews, pictures, photographs, cover letters or letters of recommendation.

Driver's License:

Clearly legible copy of a driver's license for each applicant or other proof of legal Minnesota residency to be submitted as a PDF.

Information Sessions

Lindsay Lewis, McKnight Musician Fellowship Administrator, and Noah Keesecker, Program Director – Artist Development at Springboard for the Arts, will conduct information sessions to go over the application process, both its content and technical aspects.

An audio recording of the information sessions will be available online at <http://www.macphail.org/MCKNIGHT-FELLOWSHIPS/index> after December 20, 2014.

December 16th, 2014 from 7-9 p.m.

MacPhail Center for Music

Room 310. Meet in the lobby at MacPhail Center for Music to be escorted to 310.

501 South 2nd St, Minneapolis

**At this session representatives from Mn Artists will be present to answer specific questions about Mn Artists and the online application software.*

January 11th, 2015 from 12:30-2 p.m.

Springboard for the Arts

308 Prince Street, Suite 270, St. Paul

Questions

If you have questions after reviewing these guidelines, please contact:

Regarding Eligibility and Guidelines:

Lindsay Lewis

Email: lewis.lindsay@macphail.org

Phone: 612-767-5586

Regarding the Online Application Software:

Lewis Emily Gastineau

Email: mnartists.emily@gmail.com

Please 'cc: lewis.lindsay@macphail.org

How to Submit

The McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians administered by MacPhail Center for Music application is located on Mn Artists' application software. To access the application, you will need to register with Mn Artists, then enter the application through the fellowship Opportunity located here, after you register: <http://www.mnartists.org/mcknight-fellowships-musicians>

Step 1: Profile and Contact Info

- Join Mn Artists by creating a username and password. Please use an email address you check regularly. All communications about your application will be sent to the email address you provide. <http://www.mnartists.org/user>
- Fill out contact information in the Account and Profile sections from the left-hand menu on your account (My Stuff). <http://www.mnartists.org/user/45/edit/>

Band/Ensembles: If you are applying as a band/ensemble please provide the contact information for the band/ensemble member who has agreed to act as the representative for your band/ensemble. In addition, please put your band/ensemble's name in the Pseudonym/Collective field on your Profile page. To edit your profile select profile in the menu along the left side of the page under My Stuff.

- After you fill out contact info on your profile, return to the Opportunity listing and you will see a black **'Apply'** button on the Opportunity listing <http://www.mnartists.org/mcknight-fellowship-performing-musicians>.
- Clicking this button starts the application process.
- Fill out any required fields in the Contact info page and click **'Next.'** This will bring you to the statement field
- You will then see your application listed under **'Applications'** on the left-hand menu of your profile, listed as **Applications in progress.**
- Click **Resume** to move forward with your application.
- Enter your demographic information. This information will be used only for McKnight Foundation statistics. It will not be visible to the jurors and will have no bearing on your application.
- By pressing the black next button on the right side of the screen your information will be saved and you will be brought to Step 2.

Step 2: Statement

- Please type and edit your Artist Statement in a word document.
- When you have completed your artist statement, copy and paste the contents of your document into the submission box titled "Statement" on Step 2 of the online application. You can go back and edit your statement up until you choose to submit your application.

(You will not be able to advance to the next screen until you enter text for your artist statement. If you would like to upload your work samples before completing your artist statement you may do so by putting some placeholder text into the artist statement box.)

Step 3: Work Samples

Save your selected work samples as .mp3 files named as the following:

For all works to be considered as part of the 4 minute Work Sample A please name them, A-1, A-2, A-3 and so on.

For all works to be considered as part of the 20 minute Work Sample B please name them B-1, B-2, B-3 and so on.

Uploading to SoundCloud:

- You will need to create an account (or use your existing account) on SoundCloud to submit your works. Open a new browser tab to start this process. If you need to create an account go to www.soundcloud.com and select "sign-up." SoundCloud will guide you through the sign-up process as well as how to make your account and work private, if you wish.
- Add work to your SoundCloud profile:
 - Click the Upload button on the top menu bar.
 - Unclick the 'make a playlist' checkbox.
 - Select choose file to upload.
 - Select the files from your computer.
 - Title each work accordingly: A-1, A-2, B-1, B-2, etc.
 - Select private for each file before selecting save.
 - Select save.
- Select tracks from the drop down menu underneath your user name at the top of the page. All of your uploaded tracks should show on this page. Leave this tab open in your browser window for ease.

Importing to Mn Artists

- From your profile, select the Add Artwork button from the left-hand menu.
 - Click on the plus sign to add your work.
- A new window will pop up and you will be prompted to select a file.
 - Look at the upper right hand corner and select Web next to Upload. You will see where you are asked to Enter an image URL or an embed code. This is where you will put the link to your file on SoundCloud.
- Return to your SoundCloud tab.
 - Click 'Share,' (little square with arrow) and copy the 'Private share' URL from share options.
- Return to your Mn Artists application page.
 - Paste this URL in the enter a URL field on your Add Artwork page.
 - Click submit.
- Fill out the Form Fields
 - **Medium field:** Hip Hop, Jazz, World Music, Classical, etc.
 - **Category:** Music and/or Performance
 - **Role:** Please list the instrument/s you performed on this track. If you are applying as an ensemble please list each performers instrument for example: (1) vocals/guitar, (2) percussion, (3) guitar, (4) keyboard
 - **Created Date:** Date of the recording, YYYY is required, DD MM are optional.
 - **Duration:** in minutes:seconds, example: 3:10.
 - **Applicant Info:** Please do not use this section – panelists are instructed to listen to your full work samples. Please edit the work samples accordingly.
 - Under **Description** you will see that public is checked. Please uncheck this box so your work does not show up in your public profile.
 - *Other fields may be used but are not required.* Most are relevant to finding your work in Mn Artists database, should you choose to upload your work publicly, in addition to the application process. Comments refer to your public profile, should you choose to make one, and not juror or application comments.
- Click save and you will see the uploaded work, then click **My Stuff**, then **Add Artwork** to add your next work sample.

Please follow these steps for each of your work samples.

Once you have uploaded each of your work samples you can return to your application by selecting Applications in the menu along the left side of the screen under My Stuff.

Select Work

- Once you are in your application, proceed to Step 3: 'Select Work.'
- You will see all of your work samples that you have uploaded to your profile listed.

- There will be a check box under each work sample. Please check that box for each of the work samples you intend to submit with your application.
- Then click next to save.

Step 4: Additional Materials

- **Band/ensemble members:** enter the names of everyone in your band or ensemble and their addresses. (Not applicable to soloists)
- **List of Works** (optional):
 - Save this to your desktop as a PDF titled "list of works" and then select that file when you click on browse.
- **Driver's License:**
 - Scan or take a photo of the driver's licenses to be uploaded and save them as a PDF to your desktop and then select that file when you click on browse.
- **Résumé:**
 - Save this to your desktop as a PDF titled "résumé" and then select that file when you click on browse.
- Click next to save your work.
- Your materials are attached to your application but their links are not active until you submit.

Step 5: Review Your Submission

Before submitting your application make sure you have reviewed each work sample and made sure that your application is complete. Once you submit your materials, no changes can be made.

Step 6: Click Submit to submit your application.

Questions

If you have questions during the application process, please contact:

Regarding Eligibility and Guidelines:

Lindsay Lewis
Email: lewis.lindsay@macphail.org
Phone: 612-767-5586

Regarding the Online Application Software:

Lewis Emily Gastineau
Email: mnartists.emily@gmail.com
Please 'cc: lewis.lindsay@macphail.org