



**BMI FOUNDATION**

**Press Kit**

Dedicated to encouraging the creation, performance, and study of American music.

### **WHO WE ARE**

The BMI Foundation is a nonprofit organization, incorporated in the state of New York in February 1984, and dedicated to the creation, performance and study of music, in fields including but not limited to music education, the preservation of the indigenous American jazz form, and the creation and exposure to audiences of contemporary music, particularly in the areas of classical, jazz, and musical theatre. The Foundation's programs include competitive scholarships for songwriters and composers, operating grants for nonprofit arts presenters, and support for innovative music education initiatives in schools and communities across the country. Support for the Foundation comes primarily from BMI-affiliated songwriters, composers, and publishers, BMI employees, and members of the public with a special interest in music. Many donors have chosen to contribute to the Foundation in the spirit of “giving back” to the field of music, which they feel has been generous to them. Because all members of the Foundation’s board and Advisory Panel serve without compensation, over 91% of all donations and investment income directly supports our music performance and education initiatives.

### **WHAT WE DO**

A majority of our programs are administered on an annual, competitive basis with the aid of internationally acclaimed musicians and music industry executives, for the benefit of songwriters, composers, teachers, preservationists, performers, scholars, and other industry professionals and nonprofits nationwide.

Established in 1985, the General Grants are the very first program created by the BMI Foundation, providing essential funding for nonprofit music education programs, service and artistic development organizations, and performing arts presenters committed to advancing works by living American composers. Recipients include GRAMMY-winning ensembles, tuition-free youth orchestras and bands, world-class artist residencies, and programs that are supporting, supplementing, or replacing public school arts curricula.

Our core competitions annually provide scholarships and fellowships to emerging songwriters and composers across all genres of American music (including pop, Latin, jazz, classical, and country), as well as visual media composers, aspiring radio broadcasting professionals, and Woody Guthrie scholars.

Other awards, prizes, and commissions support mid-career jazz, classical, and musical theatre writers, composers, and conductors, as well as incoming and current college-student musicians.

### **WHO WE SERVE**

Committed to supporting the legacy and innovation of American music, we award funding to songwriters, composers, and other music nonprofits throughout the United States. Many of these artists and organizations are the creative lifeblood of schools and communities otherwise lacking opportunities for music creators and audiences.

The majority of our scholarship competition winners attend U.S. colleges and universities, while some study music in countries throughout the Western Hemisphere, including Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden. Other awards and commissions support mid-career artists based in New York City, Los Angeles, and other towns and cities across the country.

Our general grants are awarded to arts organizations operating in all fifty states. Recipients include Community MusicWorks (Providence, Rhode Island), Bahama Village Music Program (Key West, Florida), Ensemble Dal Niente (Chicago, IL), The Walden School (San Francisco, CA), and Ebb & Flow Arts (Kula, Hawaii).

The Foundation has also recently begun fundraising for its first international initiative, in which Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI) songwriters will mentor young Rwandan genocide survivors in the creation of original pop and hip-hop music, as a form of music therapy.

Hear from some of our award winners below:

“The BMI Student Composer Awards are the most prestigious around, and I am absolutely certain that I owe much of any success I might have had to my early recognition by BMI. Each time I won, the award acted as a boost for me. Everyone in the business reads who wins these, and so with each of the three BMI awards, I felt renewed interest from respected musicians, administrators, presenters, and performers in my music and my promise as a composer. I am very proud to be a BMI composer!”

—**Kevin Puts**, *Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and three-time BMI Student Composer Award winner*

“I am filled with gratitude for the financial assistance to fund my college education; this award gives me the confidence to continue studying music and doing what I love by bringing value to my musical ideas. I am so thankful to have the support and encouragement from the BMI Foundation which gives a space for Latin music and aspiring composers like me.”

—**Monica Fernandez**, *winner of the 2014 peermusic Latin Scholarship and student at Berklee College of Music*

“The John Lennon Scholarship was invaluable in my creative development. It validated my craft and financially facilitated my initial step toward becoming a full-time musician. The BMI Foundation has graciously helped me form valuable relationships that continue to play a role in my career. At present, I’m writing a solo album and will soon begin work on a feature length film score. To all other John Lennon Scholarship winners, keep writing!”

—**Andrew Horowitz**, *John Lennon Scholarship winner and composer/producer for Grammy-winning artist John Legend*

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