



NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship 2018/2019 Discipline Specific Guidelines

Music/Sound

Application Deadline:

January 23, 2019 11:59 PM EST

Discipline Definition

This category accepts submissions from composers working in any and all styles of music including vocal and instrumental artists, soundscapes and experimental forms.

Work by librettists and lyricists are not reviewed in this category; librettists should apply in Playwriting/Screenwriting. Songwriters and collaborators who write both music and lyrics are welcome to apply.

Application Requirements

Support Materials for Music/Sound applications include:

- **Work Statement** - up to 100 words
- **Excerpt Explanation** - up to 400 words (optional)
- **Technical Statement** - up to 200 words (optional)
- **Cultural Statement** - up to 400 words (optional)
- **Work Samples** - 1 to 2 full length audio files with descriptions and two 2-minute excerpts
- **Score or Lyric Sheets** - Corresponding scores, fully harmonized lead, or lyric sheets.
1 per sample (optional)

Applicants applying to the Music/Sound category must be able to represent their practice solely through audio work samples, score/lyric sheets, and supplementary statements. Artists working with music/sound who require submitting image/video work samples should apply in the Interdisciplinary Work category.



Work Samples

Work samples are a representation of your artistic work created within the last five years. This is the most important part of your application, as it will be the primary point of review. Keep in mind the panel reviews a large volume of material in quick succession, therefore, it is very important that you present your work clearly.

Review Process: Music/Sound applications are reviewed over the course of 3 rounds. All Music/Sound applications will be pre-reviewed by panelists. In the pre-review round, panelists are directed to review only your 2-minute excerpts, corresponding descriptions, and available score/lyric sheets. During pre-review, all applications are assigned a number and are reviewed anonymously.

During the later rounds of review, moderators will read aloud the title, duration and date of your work samples. Your supplementary statements will also be reviewed alongside your work samples, and panelists will have access to all of this information on their individual laptops. All audio files will be reviewed using a surround sound system. NYFA uses a SKW-750X speaker system for reviewing work. During pre-review, work samples will be listened to using panelists' personal laptops or desktop computers. Please consider this when editing your work samples.

Please note, panelists will not look at websites of any kind during the application review process. Submitting any work that has been awarded a NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship in the past will automatically disqualify your application.

Work Sample Inventory: Applicants must submit **two 2-minute excerpts**, and up to **2 longer audio work samples**. Excerpts must be taken from your longer audio work samples. If you are submitting only **one** audio work sample, please submit two corresponding 2-minute excerpts from the one piece. If you are submitting **two** work samples, please submit both longer audio work samples, and one corresponding 2-minute excerpt from each.

Work Sample Descriptions: Before you upload your files to your application, you will need to name your files. **Do not label any work samples with your name**. Instead, label each uploaded work sample starting with a number 01 through 02, followed by the title of the work. Number your files in the order you would like them to be reviewed. For excerpts, please include "excerpt" in the title.

After your work samples have uploaded, you will be able to provide descriptions for each submitted work sample, including title, date the work was performed/produced, duration, and additional information. If your piece requires additional written context, please explain this in the "additional information" section using 1 - 2 sentences.

In improvisational compositions where the composer is also performing, please identify the instrument played by the composer.

File Format

File name: label each file starting with a number 01 through 02, followed by the title of the work (label if an excerpt), ex. *01_Landscape.mp3 / 01_Landscape_Excerpt.mp3*



Audio File size: No larger than 2 GB each

Audio File format: .mp3/.wav/.aiff/.m4a

Score Sheet: Each work may be accompanied by 1 copy of corresponding scores or, where appropriate (e.g. jazz/extended forms), fully harmonized lead sheets, and/or lyric sheets. Scores should be submitted as PDFs and labeled with the title of each work sample. Please indicate on your score sheets where your excerpts begin to help orient the panel.

If you regard your work as unscorable by nature, your work statement will serve in lieu of a score or lead sheet.

Support Statements

Support statements are available to the panelists in the later rounds of review.

Work Statement: A statement explaining your artistic vision as directly related to your submitted work samples. This is not an artist statement, but should instead reflect only the ideas and inspiration relevant to the work submitted. Up to 100 words.

Questions to consider for your Work Statement:

1. What is this work about?
2. What are the fundamental processes used in creating your work samples?
3. How does this work represent the primary concerns and intentions of your artistic practice?

Excerpt Explanation (Optional): A supplemental statement further explaining the context, concept, and execution of your excerpted work sample(s). This statement should explain how the excerpted work samples relate to the entire original piece (i.e. is it an excerpt from an ongoing piece, etc?) Within the Excerpt Explanation you can itemize each submitted work sample and talk about them individually. Up to 400 words.

Questions to consider for your Excerpt Explanation:

1. How does your excerpt relate to the full work?
2. What information is needed to give context to your excerpted work samples?

Technical Statement (Optional): A supplemental statement describing the key technical aspects of the work. Use this statement to highlight your role in creating/executing the work. Be sure to note whether your work samples represent documentation of a performance, installation, experience, or etc. Describe the circumstances in which the viewer/audience should experience the work. Up to 200 words.



Questions to consider for your Technical Statement:

1. How was the work created/executed?
2. What techniques or instruments are integral to the work (i.e. loop pedals, synthesizers, etc.)?
3. Is your work meant to be performed? If so, in what context?
4. Does your piece incorporate samples or field recordings?

Cultural Statement (*Optional*): A supplemental statement describing how your work is rooted in a specific cultural technique, tradition or community. Up to 400 words.

Write a Cultural Statement if:

1. Your practice stems from a specific and/or unique cultural tradition.
2. The understanding of your work is dependent on the context of a cultural community.

Please email fellowships@nyfa.org with any questions.

NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowships are administered with leadership support from New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



Quick Tips Before You Submit!

- Read the Application Guidelines and Discipline Specific Guidelines thoroughly!
- Ensure you meet all Eligibility requirements:
 - You are at least 25 years or older.
 - You are a current New York State resident, and/or a resident of one of the Indian Nations located therein.
 - Have you lived in New York State, and/or one of the Indian Nations located therein for the past two consecutive years: all of 2017 & 2018.
 - If you are a past NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellow, none of the work samples you have submitted have previously received an award.
 - You are not currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program of any kind.
 - You are the originator of the artwork submitted.
 - You have not received five NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowships.
 - You are not a NYFA employee, a member of the NYFA Board of Trustees or Artists' Advisory Committee, immediate family member of any of the above, or an immediate family member of a 2018-2019 panelist.
- Before you upload your *Work Samples*, check to make sure:
 - Audio files are .mp3/.wav/.aiff/.m4a
 - Your name is not present anywhere in your descriptions, file names, or score sheets
 - Your files are numbered 01 to 02 in the order you want them to be reviewed
 - You've added descriptions to your work samples where necessary
 - Your excerpts begin from an intriguing start to peak interest in the panel
 - All of your work sample files are less than 2GB
 - You have indicated on your score sheets where your excerpts begin to help orient the panel.
- Before you upload your *Work Statement*, check to make sure:
 - Your work statement is concise, referencing only the work in your application
 - Your statement doesn't use "art speak"
 - You use simple clear language, with concrete descriptions
 - You avoid quoting or referencing other artists by name
 - You do not use speculative language such as "I am trying to, or I seek to..." but rather, "I am."
- Before you upload an *Excerpt Explanation (optional)*, check to make sure:
 - You have explained the work samples submitted and contextualized their placement within your larger work



- Your excerpt explanation does not repeat your work statement
 - Within the excerpt explanation you can itemize each submitted work sample and talk about them individually
- Before you upload a *Technical Statement (optional)*, check to make sure:
- Your technical statement describes how your work was made and what techniques or specialty equipment was used to create the work
 - If your work should be viewed or interacted with in a certain way, you explain this here
 - If need be, you have itemized each work or group of works to better explain your work samples
- Upload a *Cultural Statement (optional)*:
- This statement should outline how your work is connected to a cultural community. You should only use this statement if you feel it is integral to the interpretation of the work.

Once submitted, you will no longer be able to make changes to your application!

You will receive an automatic confirmation notification from Submittable once your application has been successfully submitted. If you do not see this confirmation, please contact fellowships@nyfa.org.

Application **Deadline:**

Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 11:59PM EST

Applications submitted after the stated deadline will not be accepted and no exceptions will be made. We highly recommend completing your application before the deadline to allow time for work samples to upload and to avoid potential technical problems.

Thank you for your application!

Contact us at:
fellowships@nyfa.org

212-366-6900 x 239
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