

The Music School of Delaware // MSOD @ 100 2024-25 Centennial framework

Fostering the next century of musical connections
Our next century of shared humanity

In service to celebrating our 100th anniversary of fostering empathy and human connections through music and learning, The Music School of Delaware is preparing a comprehensive system of experiences, gatherings, conversations, convenings, and concerts to leverage music as our most powerful tool to foster understanding, connection, and an appreciation for our shared humanity across the state of Delaware.

Animating values:

- Radically inclusive excellence: sharing and celebrating stories, traditions, and music from all parts of time, history, and the world
- Future-facing: anticipating 22nd century needs, styles, technologies, and techniques
- Fostering shared humanity
- Connecting across difference
- Exciting individual and collective imaginations
- Learning at the heart: believing that every shared experience is an opportunity to learn and grow, whether implicitly or explicitly

Six producing pathways:

- MSOD produced - On the docket so far are a series of Back-to-School Music Block Parties at our Milford and Wilmington locations; a Home for the Holidays concert presented in Rehoboth Beach and Wilmington (December 2024 and 2025); a Women's Event TBA; and a June 2025 Festival of Voices
- Faculty produced
- Alumni produced
- Student produced
- Partner and/or collaboratively produced - On the docket so far are potential collaborations with Delaware Shakespeare Festival, Opera Delaware, and Delaware Art Museum

What musical styles, genres, instruments, or traditions will be considered?

All. Literally all. Even if we don't teach or practice it today at The Music School of Delaware, we are 100% open to presenting it as we think ever more expansively about the music we teach, practice, and learn together at MSOD and orient ourselves to become a leading-edge 22nd century music school. Hip-hop, choral, gospel, folk, pop, jazz, singer-songwriter, Americana, roots, blues, classical, strings, brass, global musical traditions from all continents, woodwinds, opera, musical theatre, R&B, funk, rock, shoegaze, etc., and all combinations thereof – music is a small word but a big tent, and we welcome all traditions and expressions.

How much money is available for these projects?

Budgets available range from \$100 to \$10,000 per project. We anticipate funding between \$40,000 and \$60,000 for projects taking place between January 2025 and December 2025. We anticipate supporting at least eight but not more than twenty projects.

Does this have to be a live performance or concert in a concert hall or church?

NO! No, it doesn't. It can be, but it doesn't have to be.

OK, so... what else could it be?

Anything you can imagine, including but not limited to...

Tentpole events

Digital content/digital creation

Pop-ups

Inreach

Outreach

Appearances at existing music or community festivals

Experiences (with food and beverage? In the outdoors? With magic or fireworks? That's up to you)

Experimenting with AI intersections

House parties, dinner parties, dance parties, party parties

Musical pub crawls

Lectures

Ceremonies, commemorations, or vigils

A new work of art – new music or new creations responding to music

One important caveat – your event must be open to the public, whether ticketed or free. We do seek to present a mix of both free and paid ticketed events.

Wait, so – what's even the point here? I thought we're a Music School?

We are – and we're beginning to radically expand our embrace of peoples, traditions, and stories that we've historically ignored or left behind – and the music that is part of these communities.

Where?

Anywhere in the state of Delaware. Or online. Or both.

I'm a musician, whether student or professional or avocational, and I like this idea, but I've never produced something like this. I have an idea but I'm not sure how to produce it. Help?

While our preference is to fund projects with producers attached, we're open to matching you with a paid producer for your project in some instances. There will be a place on the application for you to indicate your desire to be matched with a producer for your project if you don't believe you have the qualifications to do so. It's all good!

I don't know where to start. Can you give me some ideas?

Please see some project examples on the next page. Maybe they'll help.

Who's on the Centennial Project Review Group?

Faculty, board, and community members

Timeline

Application open: July 15 – August 16

Application review: August 23 – September 3

Applicants notified of results: September 13

MSOD @ 100 announced: September 30

Project Examples -

We want you to do a project that is meaningful for you - these are listed just to show you a variety of options:

1. A vocalist might want to explore places in movies where excerpts of opera arias are used and develop a program featuring those arias and how they shape the scenes they're in - both the scene in the film and the scene in the opera. Target audience could be people who identify as film lovers. Target venue could be Theatre N or the Screening Room at 1313. You could hire a film historian from a local university as a collaborative partner.
2. A Music School department (like Early Childhood) might be interested in putting together a program with the Latin American Cultural Center. It could be *for* their EC program or designed *with* their EC program or other department. It wouldn't have to be a concert; it could be an educational opportunity.
3. Maybe a museum like the Biggs Museum of American Art would be interested. They sometimes present the Biggs Five during Black History Month – five prominent Black artists. The Music School has partnered with them in the past, presenting musical interpretations of pieces from the collection on display. It's been a big hit in the past!
4. The Rehoboth Art League with a very vibrant education department and might enjoy the opportunity to collaborate.
5. New Sweden (*Nya Sverige* in Swedish) was a colony of the Swedish Empire along the lower reaches of the Delaware River between 1638 and 1655 in present-day Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Delaware has plenty of Swedish history. Maybe there's an opportunity to do a concert or something on the Kalmar Nyckel or the Old Swedes Historic Site, which has a lovely outdoor amphitheater.
6. Perhaps you want to teach youngsters how brass instrument work or percussion or any instrument. You could reach out to the Delaware Children's Museum.
7. Maybe your string quartet wants to do a series of Octets with the Copeland String Quartet, supported in part by the Delaware Symphony.
8. We all know about Clifford Brown and Cab Calloway, but what about Dorothy Rudd Moore, composer, of Delaware. Moore studied with Nadia Boulanger.
9. There's always the Sea Witch and Fiddler's Festival in southern Delaware. How could you or your students participate?