



Request for Proposals (RFP) for NEMPAC Artist Series 26/27

Proposals Open: May 7, 2026
Proposals Due: May 31, 2026

**Jazz artists and/or ensembles who respond to this RFP will automatically be considered for the NEMPAC Jazz in the Park Series 2027. Artists may also be considered for community outreach events as planned/scheduled in our season.*

Introduction:

1. NEMPAC seeks artists for its upcoming Artist Series concert season. The purpose of this series is to foster meaningful connections between our local communities in Boston, *especially the North End, Charlestown, and surrounding neighborhoods*, and the arts; promote diversity and inclusion; and provide opportunities for dialogue and reflection (*i.e. Q&As and talkbacks with our audiences supported by NEMPAC staff*). NEMPAC will select up to 3 artists, groups and/or concert programs that align with the objectives of this series and schedule them between January 2027 and May 2027. We encourage concert programs that align with culture and heritage celebrations and/or amplify the voices of marginalized groups/people/genres of music.

About NEMPAC:

2. NEMPAC is dedicated to enriching lives through music education, performances, and community engagement. The organization was founded in 2001 by a group of local mothers in the North End of Boston who were seeking arts enrichment opportunities for their children. NEMPAC has grown to serve over 1,500 students per week in its Educational Programs and School Partnerships, and thousands per year through its wide array of Professional Events and Concerts. With

headquarters in the North End of Boston, our organization has been a hub for musical excellence and community engagement for 25 years. We are committed to presenting high-quality performances and fostering a welcoming, accessible, and inclusive environment for all.

Objectives:

3. Our primary objectives of this Artist Series are:
 - Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of NEMPAC and its history of presenting and supporting diverse works and artists over its history.
 - Utilize NEMPAC's new Steinway Piano in its current venue: Bijou de la Vida Gallery in the North End of Boston.
 - Present exceptional, high-quality musician(s)/ensemble(s) that showcase the diversity in the City of Boston and in our local neighborhoods.
 - Engage audience members in conversation about the performance's themes, genres, and styles, with interactive dialogue led by the artist included during the program.
 - Create a sense of belonging for our community members to gather in a unique, non-traditional performance space environment.
 - Increase opportunities for our faculty musicians and artists to showcase their work.
 - Build relationships in our community between neighbors, students and faculty, staff and board leadership, donors and volunteers.
 - Support our Advancement of Equity Strategic Plan focus area by partnering with BIPOC artists/ensembles to elevate the voices of underrepresented groups and artists.

Scope of Opportunity:

4. The selected artist/musician/ensemble will be responsible for:
 - Performing in and delivering a live concert that aligns with the objectives of the series and NEMPAC's mission.
 - Including a community engagement or interactive component in their concert. This would encourage audience engagement, reflection, and community building.
 - Collaborating and communicating effectively with NEMPAC Staff and Concert Season Coordinator to coordinate logistics, marketing, and outreach efforts.
 - Working with partner venues (as selected) to support the most inclusive concert possible.
 - Ensuring collaborative musicians are paid equitably if sub-contracting.

Proposal Requirements:

5. Interested parties should submit a proposal that includes/answers the following:
- Name of Your Concert Program
 - Name of Artist(s) Featured
 - Genre of Music being presented (i.e. jazz, classical, R&B)
 - Music Program (upload previous performance program or list of rep)
 - When would you be available to present this program in '26-'27?
 - Does this program highlight/celebrate a specific culture or heritage? Please elaborate.
 - Are you a current or former faculty or artist of NEMPAC?
 - Please upload artistic resume
 - Link to a video recording of your work via YouTube, Vimeo or your website ideally. (If you do not have any linked videos, please reach out to info@nempacboston.org and we will work with you.)
 - Please elaborate on the proposed concert concept, including thematic focus, partnering artists/collaborators (if applicable), elevating underrepresented artists, cultures, groups, etc.
 - How will your program/concert engage the audience and support the 'conversational' aspect of this series? (i.e. run a Q&A following the program, provide speaking points during the program to educate the audience, etc).
 - What is your overall budget/compensation requirement for this concert to pay all artists involved?
 - What equipment, tech, or instrument requirements do you have for production and a venue? (i.e. Baby Grand Piano, amplification, drum set, etc.)
 - Whom could we contact for an artistic professional reference, as necessary?

Selection Criteria:

6. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
- Relevance and anticipated engagement with current audiences, creativity, and diversity of the proposed concept
 - Current commitment and/or engagement with the NEMPAC organization, if applicable
 - Proposals that align with significant cultural or heritage celebrations
 - Demonstrated experience and expertise in concert curation and community engagement.
 - Budget requirements, equitable to Boston Musicians Union earnings
 - Commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging
 - Demonstrated exceptional artistry and past professional experience delivering programming.

Submission Instructions:

7. Proposals should be submitted electronically through the [NEMPAC Artist Series RFP 26/27 Season Application](#).
8. Timeline:
 - RFP Issued: May 7, 2026
 - Deadline for Submission: May 31, 2026
 - Proposal Evaluation Period: June 6 - June 17, 2026
 - Notification of Selection: By June 22, 2026
 - Series Planning and Execution: January 1, 2027 - May 31, 2027

Right of refusal: NEMPAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals received, especially if the criteria are not met. We also reserve the right to cancel this RFP at any time. Completion of this RFP does not commit NEMPAC to award a contract.

For inquiries or additional information, please contact Will Neely, Marketing and Communications Manager at wneely@nempacboston.org.

Thank you for your interest in partnering with NEMPAC on this exciting program. We look forward to receiving your proposals!

In music & performing arts,

NEMPAC