



FREEMAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

About Chicago Sinfonietta

Chicago Sinfonietta champions diversity, equity, and inclusion by creating community through bold symphonic experiences. Since 1987, Chicago Sinfonietta has been a defiantly different kind of orchestra. The orchestra was founded by Maestro Paul Freeman to address the disconnect between the utter lack of diversity in orchestras and the vibrant, nuanced, communities for which they play. For nearly 35 years, Chicago Sinfonietta has made it its mission to represent the city of Chicago, reflecting that vibrancy on stage and in our programming, making classical music accessible for anyone.

About the Freeman Fellowship Program

The Freeman Fellowship Program (formerly known as Project Inclusion) is Chicago Sinfonietta's groundbreaking initiative where talent and mentorship converge to develop diverse, emerging musicians, conductors, composers, and administrators on and off-stage. The fellowship is divided into four categories:

Orchestral and Ensemble Freeman Fellowship

Project Inclusion started in 2008 to provide promising, diverse musicians a fellowship for one to two years. The goal is to identify, train, mentor and ready orchestra musicians beginning their pursuit of a professional career—musicians from diverse backgrounds including, but not limited to, diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic backgrounds, that are traditionally under-represented in orchestras. Through a selective process, Chicago Sinfonietta chooses 4-6 fellows each season.

Conducting Freeman Fellowship

Implemented in 2013, Project Inclusion Conducting Freeman Fellowship fosters the development of conductors of diverse backgrounds who are on the verge of professional careers. Conducting Fellows have the opportunity to work closely with CS Music Director Mei-Ann Chen, other experienced conductors, and industry professionals.

Composition Freeman Fellowship

Introduced in the 2020-21 season, the Composing Freeman Fellowship was created to include emerging composers best suited to the program's criteria and offerings. Composing fellows are given multiple opportunities to learn, workshop, and share the craft of composition with leading composers throughout the nation. They also receive extensive mentoring, technical training, and workshop activities spread out over the course of the fellowship.

Administrative Freeman Fellowship

Chicago Sinfonietta is proud to offer an opportunity for diverse, emerging and early career administrative professionals through the Project Inclusion Administrative Freeman Fellowship. This is a nine-month long, financially compensated fellowship with practical, hands-on experience.

Contact:

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