NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Music Composition
Fellowships are:

Awards of merit to individual artists to recognize excellence
Support the creative development of N.C. artists

Support the creation of new work
Fellowship Funds may be used to:

- Set aside time to work
- Pursue projects that further artistic development and support the realization of specific creative ideas
- Buy supplies and equipment
- Fund expenses related to the activities listed above: for example, costs related to studio construction or improvements

Fellowship funds may not be used to support academic research or formal study toward an academic or professional degree
A few items to note prior to applying:
Fellowship applicants must certify on the application form that they:

- are at least 18 years old
- are a U.S. citizen or holder of permanent resident alien status
- have been a year-round resident of N.C. for at least one year immediately prior to the application deadline
- will remain a N.C. resident during the grant period and be physically present in the state for the majority of the grant period
- are not enrolled at the time of application and will not be enrolled during the grant period in an academic or degree granting program.
Tips on making your application compelling and competitive
Compelling:

- Evoking interest, attention, or admiration in a powerfully irresistible way

- Inspiring conviction
Competitive:

- Having a strong desire to succeed
- Being well-suited to compete
NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Composition

1. How do you plan to use the fellowship?

2. How will receiving a fellowship impact your artistic development?

3. Why is it important that you receive a fellowship at this point in your artistic career?
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Question 1:
How do you plan to use the fellowship?
NC Arts Council Fellowships in
Songwriting and Music Composition

How do you plan to use the fellowship?

“I would use the fellowship to record a new cd.”

“I would use the fellowship to build a home studio.”

“I would use the fellowship to write a new composition.”

Everyone’s plan is different and unique to each individual. Please give detailed information about the work you are wanting to accomplish with the fellowship. It is not compelling to a panel to answer with a vague sentence that gives no detail about plans for the your work you would like to accomplish.
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How do you plan to use the fellowship?

“I would like to reduce my work hours so I have more time to work on my current composition/songwriting project/recording of my work. The project centers on…”

Yes! Making time to compose is an acceptable use of the fellowship

Be sure to include compelling details about your project
NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Music Composition

How do you plan to use the fellowship?

“I would like to apply for the following songwriter’s workshops/residencies so I can develop my current project, which is about...”

Yes! This is an acceptable use of the fellowship.

Be sure to include specifics about your work, as well as the particular workshops/residencies to which you will apply.
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How do you plan to use the fellowship?

“I have two young children, and the fellowship would buy me $X$ hours of child care so I can focus on finishing my current composition/songwriting, which focuses on…”

Yes! Child care *while writing* is an acceptable use of the fellowship

Be sure to provide compelling details about your work
NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Music Composition

How do you plan to use the fellowship?

“I will purchase a laptop computer, possible recording equipment and composition software to create a space in my home exclusively for composing.”

Yes! This is an acceptable use of the fellowship.

Be certain about what recording equipment you will need.

Be sure to provide compelling details about your project and what you plan to do
Question 2: How will receiving a fellowship impact your artistic development?
NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Music Composition

How will receiving a fellowship impact your artistic development?

“A successful concert recording of my composition will contribute to my development towards greater visibility and self-sufficiency as a working artist.”

Yes! Provide compelling details about how this will happen
NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Music Composition

How will receiving a fellowship impact your artistic development?

“I have completed my second cd recording and would like to use the funds to have it packaged and marketed. I would like to hire ABC Music Marketing to promote my cd in press/magazines, radio, and internet marketing campaign.”

Yes! Provide compelling details about how this will happen
NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Music Composition

Question 3:
Why is it important that you receive a fellowship at this point in your artistic career?
NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Music Composition

Why is it important that you receive a fellowship at this point in your artistic career?

“I will use the fellowship to revamp my website, publicize my latest music project for bookings and performances of my work to generate exposure.”

Yes! Provide as many details as possible about your work and how you will accomplish this
NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Music Composition

Why is it important that you receive a fellowship at this point in your artistic career?

“After years of teaching composition/songwriting writing, I have recently left my job to pursue my own work full time. The fellowship would allow me to focus on the development of my current work. It’s about…”

Yes! Provide compelling details about your work
Work Samples and Support Materials
Work Samples

Two full length or partial audio works with a total combined running time not exceeding 10 minutes. An optional full length work of any duration may also be included. *

Required: PDF Work Sample Form with descriptions.

Required supplemental information about audio files for all work submitted.
Required: PDF Work Sample Form with descriptions.

### Work Sample Form

Type the URLs and description for your Web link work sample in the space provided. If uploading samples directly into the system, leave the URL blank, but fill in other information.

To create a Web link, copy the URL from the Web page and paste it in the appropriate space. Select the text, then right click, select "Hyperlink," then click "OK." The link should launch when you hover over it and then use Ctrl + Click to follow the link. Remember to check your work.

Save this as a PDF Under File, select Save As. Then under the Save as type drop down menu select PDF.

How to upload this form to your application: From your application’s Work Samples page, scroll down to Uploaded Materials and use the "select files" button to select your completed Work Sample Form file. The completed Work Sample Form should now appear in the application.

If you need technical assistance, please call (919)988-6501 or the program officer for your discipline.

Highly edited promotional clips and still images will not be accepted.

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**URL/Sample 4** additional information: Click or tap here to enter text.
For **symphonic compositions**, please upload a PDF of the score for each recorded work you submit.

Required: PDF Work Sample Form with descriptions
For **electronic and experimental compositions**, please upload a PDF of the score for each recorded work you submit.

If you do not have a score, submit a technical statement describing the techniques, materials, and instruments used in the creation of the submitted work samples.

Required: PDF Work Sample Form with descriptions
For **jazz compositions**, please upload a PDF of the score or lead sheet for each recorded work you submit.

Required: PDF Work Sample Form with descriptions
For **songwriting**, please upload a PDF of the lyrics and instrumentation for each recorded work you submit. Instrumentation may be in the form of a score or a lead sheet. Songs without lyrics will not be reviewed in this category they will go to composition.

Required: PDF Work Sample Form with descriptions
Some common mistakes
to avoid
NC Arts Council Fellowships in Songwriting and Music Composition

Some common mistakes:

- Typos in your narrative
- Not getting another set of eyes to review your documents
- Not submitting the correct work samples or document format:
  - Work sample have to be in mp3 format
  - Resume should be a pdf document no more than four (4) pages
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Some common mistakes

- Submitting too much
  Don’t send any images of yourself
  Don’t send any images of your cover art
  Don’t send multiple work samples and expect us to choose
  Don’t send reviews, articles or letters of recommendation
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Some common mistakes

- The wrong resume

  Prioritize your songwriting or composition experience

  Think creatively about customizing your resume

  This needs to be in a pdf document and no pictures of the resume
In summary...
Follow the guidelines
Answer the questions
Use all of the space given for answers
Include as many specifics as possible
Submit your strongest work from the past three years
Be compelling and competitive
Next Steps after the Nov 1 deadline:

All applications are reviewed for any missing information

You will be contacted by me regarding missing information and there will be a short turn around time. If this deadline is not met your application will not be eligible.

Panel will meet sometime in the late Spring

Notifications will not happen until after the State budget has been approved and passed. We then wait for approvals from the NCAC Board of Directors and the Secretary of the Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources.

This can happen sometime between July, August, or September. All applicants will receive a mailed letter of notification once everything has been approved.
Good luck!
If you hit a technical snag in your application, or have questions not addressed in the guidelines or in this webinar, please contact program staff:

**Songwriters and Music Composition:**
Andrea Lawson, [andrea.lawson@ncdcr.gov](mailto:andrea.lawson@ncdcr.gov), 919-807-6511

**General and technical questions:** Amy Hoppe, [amy.hoppe@ncdcr.gov](mailto:amy.hoppe@ncdcr.gov), 919-807-6501