



2024 Blackbird Creative Lab

Ensemble Application

Program description

The Blackbird Creative Lab is a two-week creative immersion hosted by Grammy-award winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird. The 2024 Lab will invite chamber ensembles and composers to join us at Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, Wisconsin from May 28th - June 11th, 2024.

Created for artists / by artists, the Lab encourages, challenges, and supports participating musicians as they explore their artistic vision and expand their artistic practice as they create new work and hone their practical know-how in an exploratory, collaborative, and boundary-pushing environment.

Moving beyond the model of a brief one-time experience, the Lab aims to foster an ongoing community and share the commitment to mentorship amongst all of its participants. To carry out the Lab's vision, Eighth Blackbird draws upon their ever-growing network of collaborators, mentors, and mentees across disciplines and experiences.

Invited composers will be asked to compose a 7-10 minute new work for one of the selected Lab ensembles. For a timeline of the commission project, see [Lab 24' Commission Timeline](#).

Program and application fees

The application fee is \$25 for composers. Please reach out if you are in need of financial assistance or are in need of application accommodations.

The Lab offers a need-based sliding scale tuition from \$250 to \$2,500 per participant. In 2023, the majority of participants paid \$500 or less to attend the Lab. We encourage applicants to apply regardless of ability to pay. We will request information from finalists seeking financial aid around January 20th.

Eligibility/Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- openness to collaboration, risk-taking, experimentation

- artistic dedication and voice
- insatiable curiosity and vision
- capacity to communicate effectively, with a focus on clarity
- technical prowess

Composers must be 21+ years old by May 28th, 2024.

Application Timeline:

November 1st, 2023	Application Opens
November 29th, 2023	Information Session 1 (7:00p CT)
December 12th, 2023	Information Session 2 (9:00a CT)
December 15th	Information Session 3 (12:00 CT)
January 7th, 2023	Application Closes
January 20th	Financial Requests for Finalists
First Week of Feb	Notification of Status

Application Elements:

Basic Ensemble Information

Section One: Brief reflections about who you are as an ensemble, your approach to collaboration, and your interest in the Lab in either text or video format

Section Two: Work Samples with brief video introduction, including cue sheet if necessary

Upload Information

Section Three: Optional Survey

Application Fee Payment via Stripe

Application

Please read the following before applying via the online portal. We encourage you to gather all materials, as application must be completed in one session.

Please Provide the following Information:

- First and Last Name
- Preferred name

- Email
- Phone Number
- Homebase/Location

Section 1: Bio + Short Reflections

Please submit a brief biography/history, the way you would want it presented in program notes (250 word max)

You may submit the following in either video or written format. Please see maximum length/time below. Label files accordingly.

Share about your journey as a composer, your compositional process, and your practices for connection to musicians and audiences. *What motivates you? What is your vision for your work?* (250 word max or 1 minute max)

Share about your decision to apply to the Lab and how you envision this experience may impact you as a composer. *What are your short-term (1-3 year) and long-term (3-5 year) professional goals, and how do you envision your two weeks at The Lab helping you achieve those goals? Think both practically and creatively.* (250 word max or 1 minute max)

Eighth Blackbird has spent much of their career collaborating across disciplines (movers, visual artists, theater performers, etc). **What is your interest in multidisciplinary work, and your approach to collaborating with artists outside your own discipline?** (250 word max or 1 minute max)

Describe a dream project! *Give us a sense of your imagination.* (250 word max or 1 minute max)

Section 2: Work Samples

Please include a 1-2 minute video intro to your work sample, sharing why you have included these works, in addition to the following:

- 2 contrasting pieces (score + recording), 3rd is optional
- PDF of score, clearly labeled see *above*
- Live audio recordings (preferred), clearly labeled see *above*
- Excerpts are encouraged.
- One must be a small ensemble work.

Please reference labeling and format instructions below.

Upload Instructions

Please submit application requirements of Sections 1 and 2 in a single google drive folder (preferred) or dropbox folder, labeled as follows:

- **Folder: Applicant Last Name, Applicant First Name (Composer)**
 - Last Name, Bio - PDF
 - Last Name, Short Answer- Video (see format) or PDF
 - Last Name, Work Sample Intro - Video (see format)
 - Last Name, Recording Cue Sheet - PDF *if necessary*
 - Last Name, Score 1 (Title of Piece) - PDF
 - Last Name, Recording 1 (Title of Piece) - mp3 (see format)

- Last Name, Score 2 (Title of Piece) - PDF
- Last Name, Recording 2 (Title of Piece) - mp3 (see format)
- Last Name, Score 3 (Title of Piece) - PDF *optional*
- Last Name, Recording 3 (Title of Piece) - mp3 (see format) *optional*
- **Video Format:**
 - mp3 audio files encoded at 256kbps minimum, less than 100MB each
 - Video file resolution should not exceed 1080p and be compatible with most major internet browsers. Note: If video can be accessed on Vimeo or Youtube, you may substitute video files in the application folder with a single clearly labeled PDF that includes all links.
 - Please provide URLs with password as needed
 - Please cue videos to desired starting point if necessary

Section 3: Optional Survey

How did you hear about this opportunity?

- Eighth Blackbird communications
- School/University, specify: *write-in*
- Mailing list; specify source: *Write-In*
- Social media; specify source: *Write-In*
- Friend, peer, artistic
- Colleague, advisor, mentor
- Other: *Write-In*

Age *Write-In*

Please tell us how you self identify:

- Self Describe *write in*
- Prefer not to share

Select Pronouns you use:

- She / her
- He / him
- They / Them
- Self Described (provide below, *with text box*)
- Prefer not to share

Which categories best describe you, check all that apply:

- African, African-American, or Black
- Arab, Middle Eastern, or North African
- Asian, South Asian, of Southeast Asian
- Hispanic, Latina/o, or Latinx
- Native American, Indigenous, or First Nation
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White or Caucasian

- Self describe: *Write-In*
- Prefer not share

Where are you currently living? *Write-In*

Do you care to share with us your country of origin? *Write-In*

Do you identify as a person with a disability?

- Yes, I have a disability (or previously had a disability)
- No, I do not have a disability
- Prefer to Self-Describe: *Write-In*
- Prefer Not to Share

Are there any other aspects of your identity that you would like to share in this application? *Write-In*

Application Fee Payment via Stripe

Again, please reach out if you are in need of financial assistance or are in need of application accommodations.