

Written Testimony of
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before the
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
on
Fiscal Year 2021 Funding of the National Endowment for the Arts

As the leading organization that represents thousands of individual music creators and professionals—songwriters, performers, studio professionals, and others creatively involved in making music—the Recording Academy is pleased to offer testimony to the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The Recording Academy is proud to support the NEA and the important work it has done to enrich American culture. It remains an integral part of the cultural bedrock of the United States, working to bring music and the arts to towns and communities across the country. As such, the Recording Academy urges the subcommittee to fund the NEA at \$170 million for Fiscal Year 2021 so that it can fulfill its mission in the coming year.

Through supporting music and the arts, the NEA empowers local communities, improves student development, and advances cultural achievements. A modest increase in its annual budget, to \$170 million, will better equip the NEA to expand its grant-making capabilities and help deliver an increase in arts participation across all 50 states. Considering that NEA grants yield more than \$500 million in matching support—leveraging outside funds at a ratio of 9:1—it is financially one of the smartest investments the government can commit to.

In the music industry, the NEA supports more than \$50 million in music related grants each year. From the American Composers Forum in Saint Paul (\$20,000, in 2020) to the MusicAlliance (\$10,000, 2014) in Mentor, Ohio; and from the Bowdoin International Music Festival in Maine (\$10,000, 2019) to the Boise Philharmonic (\$10,000, 2015), the NEA has brought music to your back yard. And, it must be fully funded to ensure that all Americans, no matter where they live or what they do, can have access to, and participate in, our great musical experience.

As you finalize appropriations for FY21, please remember to invest in America's culture and support the NEA. For less than \$1 a day per American, you can help ensure that the NEA executes its mission and enriches our culture.