Capital District Jazz
Request for Proposals

Greetings Capital Region jazz musicians, if you would be interested in earning $200.00 to create a short video for us, please read on!

Capital District Jazz is a 501c3 not-for-profit whose mission is to build and serve a wider audience for jazz through education; create performance opportunities for jazz musicians in New Yorks’ capital region; and to help develop venues for these pursuits. Due to the heavy impact the Coronavirus Pandemic has had on the performing arts, CDJ is looking for ways to keep our audience engaged during these times when live performances are not an option.

Capital District Jazz is introducing a new educational video series, Inside the Music, which will provide a platform for jazz musicians in our region to share their thoughts on performing improvising, and listening to jazz. We believe we have an opportunity to enrich the concert and listening experiences of our audiences through education and to help the jazz newcomer get a toehold in understanding what makes jazz so interesting and enjoyable. We specifically intend that our series shall be geared not for music students, but to the jazz audience–experienced listener and novice alike – who are interested in its rich history, and seek to better understand its technical complexity and emotional depth.

As examples for programming, your proposal should explain how you would present a specific aspect of:
- a jazz performance
- critical listening (understanding the form and role of individual instruments)
- how improvisation relates to an underlying composition
- how one of your compositions translates your idea into sounds
- Jazz History - iconic artists

We’re looking for aspects of these subjects that are less than obvious to non-musicians and for you to be very focused. For example, if you choose to offer behind the scenes insights into jazz performance, you might talk about ONE of the following things: Rehearsals. Keeping your excitement in check. Recovering from the inevitable mistakes. Dealing with a challenging stage situation or lousy acoustics. We’re looking for our viewers to go “aha, so that’s what’s going on” and gain fresh understanding of what makes a performance tick. Again, be as very specific as possible.

Your proposed video segment should be no longer than 10 minutes, and we should like to understand if it will include a demonstration, use of other sound and video or other graphics. Please note that CDJ is offering a $200.00 stipend for accepted proposals and the videos in whole or in part will be shared free of charge on social media such as Facebook and Youtube. Please consider this offer of employment our way of helping you reach out to jazz audiences and to build ongoing rapport and understanding in our community.

Please contact markkleinhaut@hotmail.com with your proposals or if you’d like to pre-screen ideas and raise questions about the program. Thanks! We look forward to hearing from you.