

2025-2026 CCMpower

Awardee Report



Liming Yang, DMA Piano Performance, CCMpower Awardee

In the 2025-2026 academic year, CCMpower awarded \$50,000 to 150 members of the CCM community. Here are some reflections and highlights from student awardees this year.

Angelo Anton, DMA Wind Conducting '27

"Receiving a CCMpower Award made it possible for me to attend the Midwest Clinic, one of the most important professional conferences in the band and music education field. During the conference, I was able to observe outstanding ensemble performances, attend sessions on conducting, repertoire, pedagogy, and current trends in the profession, and connect with conductors, educators, composers, and publishers from across the country. The experience directly supported my growth as a doctoral student in wind conducting by expanding my knowledge of repertoire, strengthening my professional network, and giving me practical ideas that I can bring back to my work at CCM and in future ensemble settings. The results of this experience were both immediate and long-term: I returned with new programming ideas, a broader understanding of the field, and renewed inspiration for my own teaching and conducting. CCMpower funding made this opportunity financially possible by helping cover the costs associated with travel and conference participation, allowing me to take part in an experience that otherwise would have been much more difficult to afford."

Ahhyun Baek, AD Opera '26

"The CCMpower Award supported my participation in a tour that I had the invaluable opportunity to perform for new audiences. Through this experience, I was able to significantly improve my technique as a performer while collaborating in different environments. The tour would not have been possible without the funding, as it covered the essential travel and lodging expenses that allowed us to focus on our artistic growth."

Katherine Campman, BM Saxophone Performance '28

"My quartet traveled to various locations in and around cities such as Cincinnati, Columbus, Louisville, and Washington D.C., gaining performance and competition experience. We have grown tremendously as a quartet this year through these experiences which were generously supported by CCMPower."

Euna Choi, DMA Piano Performance '27

"This project was designed to benefit both our CCM performers group and the students at the schools we visited. As planned, we gave recitals and masterclasses for the students, and did some collaborative activities with students. There were almost 100 people who attended/participated in the activities at the four schools, and it was truly a meaningful experience for us as we got a chance to meet wonderful student musicians in many different places, and to be connected with CCM alumni who are engaging in the schools and communities across the states. We all appreciate your support!"



Ahhyun Beck (AD Opera), Euna Choi (DMA Piano), Rena Wu (DM Piano), and Casey Mcguire (BM Clarinet) with a colleague on their Young Professional Tour

Kaitlyn Dankworth, BFA Media Production '27

"My CCMPower Award was put towards two separate senior capstone films this year! In the fall, I utilized half of my total funding given by CCMPower for the Film Lab project, Go Rest Young Man. As the producer and production designer, I used this budget for locations, crafty, and the cost to rent wardrobe. The other half was put towards the senior capstone, Moxie. On this project I was an associate producer and SFX makeup artist. My funding contribution went towards prosthetics, makeup supplies, and crafty for crew and cast on set."

Bruce Deal, DMA Tuba '28

"I was accepted to give a presentation at the Southeast Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference in Athens, Georgia. My presentation was titled, "Practice Makes Progress: Designing Routines with Intention." This award helped cover travel expenses for this presentation."

Kimberly Dinh, BFA Media Production '26

"Alex is the Pizza Girl is a short dark comedy, where Alex must deliver pizza to a fraternity house with a serial killer lying in wait for her arrival. This fictional narrative was my first major project that I wrote and directed, alongside a professional, majority female-led crew. Receiving the CCMpower grant allowed this film to blossom and provide a truly fantastic film environment. With the money, not only were we able to properly feed our cast and crew every set, we were also able to acquire the exact locations and additional cinema gear that was necessary for this film to come to life! Our best shots came directly from gear bought from the grant, and the crew and I are ever so grateful that we were allowed to show our passion and talents both on and off-screen!"



Kimberly Dinh (BFA Media Production) with cast and crew during 'Alex is the Pizza Girl' shooting.

Sage Dolan, BFA Media Production '27

"My project was involved with the CCM Film Lab course in the 2025 Fall Semester. Receiving funding from CCM Power made it possible for the art department to gather the necessary materials for set design, props, and costuming. As the lead production designer on the short film, I am grateful for the opportunity and the experience I had gained from working on this project. While I have not yet seen the finalized version of the film, I have heard positive things about its results from the director and professor involved in the film lab-- and I look forward to its screening!"

Bradley Esau, DMA Wind Conducting '26

"With the help of CCM Power, I was able to participate in the Reynolds' Conducting Institute at the 2025 Midwest Clinic. The Conducting Institute is named for H. Robert Reynolds, Director of Bands Emeritus at the University of Michigan. The institute features the finest rising conductors from around the country."

Stella FitzGerald, MM Voice Performance '26

"CCM Power made it possible for me to fund an audition trip to Philly that resulted in me being accepted to Academy of Vocal Arts, where I will be continuing my training next fall. The cost of audition travel is overwhelming as a young artist in school, as my income does not cover all of my expenses. I am so grateful that CCM Power was able to cover the costs of my flight to Philly. I was able to arrive and leave at a time that was comfortable for me, and it set me up for a good audition. I found out the following week that I had been accepted. Last year, I received a CCM Power grant and used it to fly to New York to audition for Music Academy of the West. I was accepted into the program, and met a voice teacher there that works at Academy of Vocal Arts. Making that connection lead me to apply to AVA, and I am now about to be a Resident artist there. It is all connected, and I feel very grateful that CCM Power helped make this connection, which helped me to figure out my next steps. Thank you!"



Bradley Esau, DMA Wind Conducting

Bin Gu, DMA Viola

“Through the support of the CCMpower Award, I was able to further develop my artistic and professional growth as a violist, particularly in orchestral playing and solo repertoire preparation. This funding allowed me to dedicate more time and resources to refining my technique, expanding my repertoire, and participating in high-level performance opportunities. As a result, I gained valuable experience in both solo and ensemble settings, which significantly strengthened my musical voice and confidence as a performer. The CCMpower Award made it possible for me to focus more fully on my artistic development without financial constraints, and I am deeply grateful for this support.”

Eliot Harned, BFA Media Production '27

“I was the cinematographer for the Film Lab Fall 2025 class. We were able to set a new bar for CCM Media Production films. We collaborated with the props and acting department as well as other majors from outside colleges at UC.”

See photos from Eliot's work at <https://eliotharned.com/go-rest-young-man>.

Jiaxin Hu, MM Music Education '27

“Receiving the CCMpower Award greatly reduced my financial burden and allowed me to fully focus on my project. I learned a lot of new knowledge and skills at the OMEA conference, which was very helpful for my professional growth. This experience also gave me the chance to meet many excellent peers and mentors, which made me more confident about my future direction.”

Kelly James, BM Horn Performance and Music Education '27

“The horn quartet that I am part of traveled to Nacogdoches, Texas, to attend the Mid-South Horn Workshop, where we competed in individual solo/mock audition competitions as well as the horn quartet competition. We competed against other groups from across the country, and we received honorable mention for our performance! Without the funding we received from CCMpower, this experience would not have been possible, and we are endlessly thankful for the support we were given.”

Ben Keating, MM Piano '27 and MM Conducting '28

“This CCMpower Award has made it more possible for me to be a part of the summer season with La Musica Lirica in Italy as an assistant conductor. I will be able to have the opportunity to work with singers and orchestral players in a workshop/performance environment that will further develop my growth as a musical leader. I am happy to share more about my experience in the Fall of 2026 once I have completed this program.”



Lia Lubinsky (BFA Theatre Design & Production: Lighting Design and Technology), pictured on right

Lia Lubinsky, BFA Theatre Design & Production: Lighting Design and Technology '27

"The CCMpower Award helped me financially afford to be able to travel out to Los Angeles with my Professor Kevin Lawson to be a lighting intern for the 2025 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Peacock Theater. Me and another classmate, Miya Chambers, got the opportunity to shadow the team of Allen Branton, Felix Peralta, George Gountas, and Kevin Lawson and see the process from Load-In to the Rehearsals, to the programming, to the performance, and to finally, the Strike of the show. It was an opportunity to see a large part of the industry that we are not exposed to in this Theater program, and sparked my interest in broadcast lighting design. Without CCMpower's help, it would have been much harder to make housing and travel plans within a tighter budget. I have gained a lot of insight from this trip about how my career could look once I'm well out of college, and what opportunities exist for me. I also learned a lot just from watching Felix program the lighting, which I was then able to use those skills on our Lighting technologies' showcase "BOOM".
Watch a clip of the show at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_15MOAffvk.

Jingyu Luo, DMA Composition '27

"With the support of the CCMpower Award, I had the opportunity as a second-year DMA student in Composition to participate in two highly influential electronic music festivals: EMM (Electronic Music Midwest) and MOXsonic. My works were selected and performed at these festivals, allowing me to present my creative work on a professional academic platform and engage in in-depth exchanges with composers, performers, and electronic music researchers from across the country. The CCMpower funding directly covered my travel, registration, and some equipment costs, removing financial concerns and making this invaluable opportunity for academic exchange and artistic presentation possible. Through this experience, I not only broadened my artistic horizons and built important professional connections but also gained new inspiration for my future creative work and doctoral research."



Jingyu Luo (DMA Composition)

Molly Mitchell, BFA Media Production

"The \$500 power grant I received from CCM Power was extremely integral to the process of completing my capstone film. With the money I was able to feed a 20 person crew for the length of our 10 day shoot and afford an actual budget for our props department. Without the money, this project would not have been able to be executed at the level we wanted to execute it at. Thank you kindly."

Emmie Myers, Media Production '26

"Receiving this CCMpower award honestly completely saved our project. We were struggling to find a location for a very large scene, and I was able to rent a location with the money from my grant."

Check out the behind-the-scenes of Emmie's work at <https://next.frame.io/share/c0f94dd8-2785-42d6-93fe-9d0759439d2a/view/72667349-6c1c-4e2c-9817-bb64f57b99ec>.

Kayla Nelson, BM Horn Performance '29

"CCM Power our horn quartet to go to the Mid-South Horn Workshop! The funds helped to support travel cost such as gas money (14 hour drive), hotel costs, meals, and the actual workshop fee itself. Because of CCM Power's generosity we were able to experience this amazing opportunity of competing/attending concerts and ultimately bonding extremely close with the girls in my quartet."

Max Page, BM Saxophone Performance '28

"Took a trip to Washington DC for a saxophone conference. I was able to connect with other students, see masterclasses, and meet professionals in my field. CCM power made this possible by sponsoring our AirBnB and paying for gas on the 8 hour drive."

Brookelynn Perkins, BFA Media Production

"I assistant directed (ADed) a capstone short film called Good Grief, a dark comedy about a group of 3 friends who have taken it upon themselves to kill all of their best friend's toxic boyfriends, and are now faced with her current boyfriend onto them at their annual Halloween party. It was an incredibly fun and impactful experience that I learned the most I ever have from. We accomplished stunts most would not have even attempted at this level, including throwing an AC unit out a window, a guy being pushed out of a window, and a (prop) knife being thrown into a wall. I am very proud to say I was a part of this project and am so excited to see it at the MPRO showcase in a few weeks, and it would not have been possible without the budget provided to us greatly by CCMpower for props, locations, and especially just food to keep people working at their best. The final film will be shown at the MPRO Capstone showcase on April 28th in TUC Cinema starting at 6pm."

Carly Robinett, MM Music Education '26

"Thanks to my award from CCMpower, I received the assistance needed to attend the Ohio Music Education Association Conference. I presented my masters' project, "The Balance of Sacred and Secular Music in Choral Music Education", at the research poster session, which will go down as my first conference presentation. The funds from CCMpower went toward my hotel room and transportation to and from Columbus, OH."

Sarah Rosales, MM Voice Performance '27

"Without the CCM Power Grant I would not have been able to afford this trip. Being able to sing for the Laffont Competition Upper Midwest Regionals was a very important and special experience. I was fortunate enough to have taken home 2nd place that day."



Sarah Rosales (MM Voice Performance) pictured with Gordon Ostrowski from the Manhattan School of Music

Kayla Sconiers, *MM Voice Performance '26*

"This award helped me travel to auditions in NYC. I secured two Young Artists Program contracts for the summer. Thank you so much, CCMpower, for alleviating some financial strain."

Jordan Sedgwick, *BFA Media Production '26*

"My project is called "Parthenon", a music video that is a collaboration with many local artists here in Cincinnati, including singer Sappha, choreographer Ryan Miller, and rigging artist Derek Miller. With the money given to us by CCMpower, we have been able to pay our dancers and choreographer, a privilege we are not often able to do as student creators. We are also able to rent space at Cincinnati Circus to be able to shoot an aerial scene safely that will allow us to visually show our performer bound in the narcissistic relationship she sings about in her song. Finally, we have been able to use the money to buy the props we believe are needed to create the best project, not just for ourselves, but for Sappha to use as a means to promote herself and her art. We are very grateful for this grant and what it has allowed us to do within our community."

Sergey Tkachenko, *DMA Choral Conducting '26*

"Assisting Dr. Miller with the preparation of Mahler's 2nd Symphony with the Philadelphia Orchestra was a thrill! I was able to sit in on all rehearsals, including piano-vocal and orchestral rehearsals. During breaks, Dr. Miller brought me up to the stage to interact with the production staff, including music director Yannick Nezet-Seguin. As we were in our final rehearsal, I remember making a comment about the balance of the orchestra, requesting that there be more off-stage bells. My comment was taken seriously and the subsequent performances were that much better.

One of the most memorable experiences was when Dr. Miller asked me to conduct the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir from the Marian Anderson Hall stage. He was in the hall and wanted to hear balance and to determine the best choir seating arrangement. To conduct the opening pages of the first choral entrance in the symphony was a mountaintop moment I will cherish forever.

Receiving the CCMpower grant helped me cover the cost of plane fare and lodging in Philadelphia for the week-long production. Thank you very much for your support of this valuable career-building experience!"



Sergey Tchachenko (DMA Choral Conducting) at the Philadelphia Orchestra and with fellow students and faculty of the College-Conservatory of Music.

Liming Yang, DMA Piano Performance

“Receiving the CCMpower Award has been both an encouragement and a strong motivation for my artistic growth. With this support, I was able to focus more fully on my performance and competition preparation, which led to my advancement as a finalist in the Odysiad International Piano Competition and a semifinalist in the Wideman International Piano Competition. The award also made it possible for me to participate in major festivals such as Pianofest and to engage more deeply with performance opportunities at CCM. As a result, I was selected to perform in the CCM Concerto Competition and had the opportunity to perform with the CCM Philharmonic. Overall, the CCMpower funding played a crucial role in enabling these achievements and supporting my development as a pianist. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for this award. It has been both an encouragement and a driving force in my artistic development, allowing me to pursue important performance opportunities and achieve meaningful milestones this year.”



Liming Yang (DMA Piano Performance) in concert with the CCM Philharmonia

CONTACT INFORMATION

CCM Development Office

Elaine Cox

Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations
cox2em@foundation.uc.edu

Annie Bloemer

Associate Director of Development
bloemeaa@mail.uc.edu

Development Office: (513) 556-2528

Office of Development and Alumni Relations
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music
Mary Emery Hall, Suite 4255
P.O. Box 210003
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0003

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