

Request for Proposals

International Foundation for Music Research (IFMR)

Summary/Research Objective:

The International Foundation for Music Research (IFMR) seeks proposals from leading researchers and research teams in the fields of music, music education, neuroscience, psychology, education and/or health to explore the benefits of hands-on music making in various education, health-wellness or therapeutic settings. Short-term (less than one year) as well as longitudinal studies (up to three years) will be considered.

IFMR seeks innovative and exacting study designs that explore effects/outcomes of hands-on music making on various functions including cognitive processes, development and learning, skill development and retention, and psychological, biological and social/emotional aspects in target populations (early childhood, school-age, adult, elderly – well and infirm).

Research hypothesis and design, together with researchers' ability to execute proposed study, will be reviewed with consideration given to the potential for the study to inform and describe music's efficacy or effect on target populations in various settings.

Innovative studies exploring the role of hands-on music-making in educational and health-related settings will receive priority. Priority will also be given to cross-disciplinary teams of researchers working collaboratively.

Pre-Proposal Deadline: September 22, 2004

Proposal Deadline: October 22, 2004 (by invitation)

Award date: January 19, 2005

Project timeline: 1, 2 or 3-year studies; beginning January - June 2005

Budget/Grant Amount: subject to competitive review

Number of Awards: 3-5 grants will be awarded; pending funds availability

Background:

Founded in 1997, The International Foundation for Music Research (IFMR) supports scientific research exploring the relationship between music and physical and emotional wellness, with particular attention to the elderly population, the impact of music making on at-risk youth, and music education and the effects of music and music making. IFMR also convenes scientists, educators and others around critical issues in music research and disseminates research through its publication, IFMR News, and various on-line research referral services and archives.

To date, IFMR has distributed approximately \$2mm in research grants funds advancing an exploration of music's role in various aspects of life.

Rationale:

Several fields of study, including the relatively new field of music research, have produced new knowledge and understanding about music's role and impact in human development and during various phases and functions. The impact of hands-on music making and its effect on other functions (i.e. verbal memory, pre-literacy skill development, memory retention, health and wellness, academic achievement) has been studied marginally and more research is needed. There is also a need for innovation and expertise in research design in order to achieve scientifically reliable and meaningful outcomes that contribute to emerging knowledge about the impact of hands-on music making on various populations.

Pre- Proposal requirements: (not to exceed 5 double spaced pages for # 1-4 below; budget, timeline and CV additional)

1. State research hypothesis; describe relevancy of study to current understanding (summarize, do not include comprehensive literature review in pre-proposal)
2. Describe target population and setting(s) for research; outline current partnerships/affiliations that will enable execution of research
3. Outline research design and methodology to test proposed hypothesis; include description of tests or measures (standardized) that will be implemented or other study protocols
4. Describe expertise/experience to implement proposed study; if applicable, provide web links to published research papers and articles
5. Provide project timeline and detail implementation tasks; use timeline grid if desired (one page)
6. Provide detailed budget; may use Excel spread sheet; multi-year projects, present year-by-year budget (one page)
7. Attach CV and/or website reference; work samples and references will be requested.

All pre-proposals will be evaluated by a panel of scientific reviewers.

Selected projects will be invited to submit complete proposals that will be peer-reviewed prior to final review and approval by IFMR Trustees. Researchers will be invited to submit up to 3 names to review invited proposal.

Email to: info@music-research.org by September 15, 2004 for pre-proposal consideration