

JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2006 Grants Awarded in Music

The American Brass Chamber Music Association

THE AMERICAN BRASS CHAMBER MUSIC ASSOCIATION, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$28,000 to support four commissions awarded to emerging composers, based in New York City and/or Minnesota, for new works to be performed by the American Brass Quintet. The works will receive initial premieres at the Aspen Music Festival and Lincoln Center, after which they will be toured domestically and internationally. Emphasis will be placed on emerging composers creating experimental work. Founded in 1960, the American Brass Quintet has commissioned approximately 140 works, of which a significant number have become repertoire staples for brass quintets.

American Composers Forum

The AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM, St. Paul, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$234,000 in support of the Jerome Composers Commissioning Program for emerging Minnesota and New York City composers. In conjunction with this commitment, the Foundation authorized the re-purposing of a previous grant awarded for Performance Outreach Grants to be used for a new program, titled Subito, aimed at emerging Minnesota composers. The American Composers Forum links communities with composers and performers, encouraging the making, playing and enjoyment of new music. The Forum's goals are to provide direct support to composers at every stage of their careers and to develop markets for composers and their music. Since 1979, the Jerome Foundation has provided support to the Forum for a Commissioning Program, targeted to composers at emerging levels in their careers. This Program empowers composers to take the initiative in developing their own creative vision and pursuing the creation of new work, rather than relying on performers to generate opportunities. Subito grants are quick turnaround, career advancement grants for composers and composer-performers of new music. It's a program that encourages composers and sound artists working in diverse genres via grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,000.

Bang on a Can

BANG ON A CAN, Brooklyn, New York, received a grant of \$10,000 in support of the commissioning of new work from three New York City emerging composers, through the People's Commissioning Fund, for performance by the Bang on a Can All-Stars. The ensemble performs a repertoire that reflects a multiplicity of musical genres and traditions. Jerome commissions will go to Annie Gosfield, Yoav Gal, and John Hollenbeck.

Ethos Percussion Group

A two-year grant of \$45,000 was awarded to ETHOS PERCUSSION GROUP, Elmhurst, New York, in support of the Emerging Composer Commissioning Program. Ethos is dedicated to the advancement of the percussive arts in performance and education. Its eclectic repertoire highlights the players' vibrant musicianship as well as their extensive and unique collection of instruments. Ethos places an open call to solicit submissions. Once the commissions are made, the ensemble and the composers develop a timeline of regular meetings to move the works forward. Ethos ensures multiple opportunities for the new works to be heard.

Meet the Composer

A two-year grant of \$40,000 was given to MEET THE COMPOSER, New York City, in support of the participation of emerging composers from Minnesota and New York City in the Meet The Composer Fund. Meet the Composer fosters the creation, performance and recording of music by American composers, and develops new audiences for their work. In four cycles per year, sponsoring nonprofit organizations apply for funds to engage composers in the performances of their work. The Fund enables composers to participate in performances of their own work, build relationships between composers and artistic decision makers, supports the creation of new work, and helps composers interpret their work for audiences.

Ann Millikan/Sword Dance Publishing Company

American Composers Forum

The AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM, St. Paul, Minnesota, acting as fiscal sponsor for composer ANN MILLIKAN, received \$8,000 in support of the production of a CD of Millikan's work by the California E.A.R. Unit. The American Composers Forum links communities with composers and performers, encouraging the making, playing and enjoyment of new music. The Forum seeks to provide direct support to composers at every stage of their careers and to develop markets for composers and their music. Composer Ann Millikan will record a CD of her music performed by the California E.A.R. Unit for release on the Innova label of the American Composers Forum. The CD will contain four new works and two composed in 2000 for the E.A.R. Unit, an ensemble composed of flute, clarinet, piano, percussion, violin, and cello.

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New Dramatists

NEW DRAMATISTS, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$80,000 in support of its New Works Process and the Composer Librettist Studio. For over 50 years, New Dramatists has dedicated itself to one mission: to find gifted playwrights and give them the time, space and tools to develop their craft so that they may fulfill their potential and make lasting contributions to the theater. The Composer Librettist Studio is a collaboration between New Dramatists and Nautilus Music-Theater of Minnesota. This two-week studio focuses on music theater development and the principles of collaboration. It's structured to work with five writers, five composers and five singers, who participate in a series of creative exercises. At the end, each playwright has worked with each composer and 25 new music theater pieces have been created by the group.

Orchestra of Saint Luke's/Saint Luke's Chamber Ensemble

Jerome Foundation Directors authorized a two-year grant of \$24,000 to the ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S, New York City, to support three commissions over the next 18 months for its Second Helpings series. The St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble explores a wide range of repertoire through innovative strategies including artistic collaborations, alternative forms of presentation and educational outreach. It has a long and distinguished record of commissioning new works by composers, both emerging and established. Jerome subsidy will allow St. Luke's to commission new works by composers Roshanne Etezady, Gabriela Frank, and Daniel Bernard Roumain. The works will be presented in the Second Helpings series, a showcase of contemporary music with special emphases on subsequent performances of recently written work as well as newly commissioned works by emerging American composers.

Roulette Intermedium

Directors approved a two-year grant of \$48,000 to ROULETTE INTERMEDIUM, New York City, in support of services for and presentations of new work by emerging composers of experimental and adventurous music. Roulette's purpose is to increase the awareness and understanding of experiments in music and intermedia by supporting the artists creating work in these forms. Roulette's concert series provides opportunities for composers to test works-in-progress and perform new works for live audiences. Composers, creating work in an eclectic range of styles and genres, are selected by Artistic Director Jim Staley. A large percentage of the concert schedule is devoted to young and emerging composers. A Roulette concert welcomes an emerging composer into a forum where the debate about music has extended over two decades. Roulette provides production assistance, publicity, technical services and documentation.

Roulette Intermedium

ROULETTE INTERMEDIUM, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$40,000 in support of the Emerging Composer Commissioning Program. Roulette offers over 50 concerts each year, paying fees, commissioning new work, providing publicity, offering production and recording facilities, and initiating recording and distribution programs. Launched in 1997, the Jerome Emerging Composer Commissioning Program has awarded 28 commissions of \$4,000 each to emerging experimental composers. The commissions are made through a nominating process, using new music practitioners as curators. The focus is on young composers coming from a variety of musical backgrounds and ethnic cultures, who are generally interested in each other's instruments and techniques. The effect of the commissions is bolstered by Roulette's presentation of the commissioned pieces, forums for the artists to bring their works to the public. The commissions give the artists the liberty and the mandate to make a piece with a sustained structural intention, which can withstand a certain scrutiny and the focused listening experience that a Roulette concert provides.

Savage Aural Hotbed The Southern Theater

THE SOUTHERN THEATER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as fiscal sponsor for SAVAGE AURAL HOTBED, received a two-year grant of \$16,000 in support of the creation and production of new work. The Southern Theater presents alternative performances by artists working at the grassroots of the Twin Cities' varied cultural, political and economic communities. The musical ensemble Savage Aural Hotbed uses found objects and conventional percussion instruments, bass guitar, modified horns and vocals, and power tools to create visual and aural spectacles with high-energy rhythms and flying sparks. The four members of Savage Aural Hotbed collaborate in the composition process, drawing from modern minimalist, electronic and ethnic styles of music. New works created will be presented in small concerts in the first year and in a major show in the second at The Southern Theater. For that, the members of Savage Aural Hotbed will build large machines/sculptures that produce sounds.

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VocalEssence

VOCALLESSENCE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$22,000 in support of Essentially Choral 2006. VocalEssence offers education programs, tours internationally, records, broadcasts, provides training for emerging composers writing vocal music, and commissions composers to broaden the experience of today's audiences with new contributions to concert repertoire. Essentially Choral provides a creative, developmental, networking, and educational opportunity for emerging composers interested in writing for chorus. Five composers receive readings of their work, recordings of the rehearsal readings, seminar sessions, and meetings with a senior composer mentor and conductor Philip Brunelle.

Zeitgeist

ZEITGEIST, St. Paul, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$27,000 in support of the Zeitgeist/Composer Workshop. A group of musicians animated by a spirit of adventure and collaboration, Zeitgeist presents works of substance with passion and integrity and strives to forge new links between musicians and music lovers through concerts, commissions, recordings, and dialogues with audiences. The Composer Workshop gives emerging composers the opportunity to develop their creative ideas and stretch their artistic boundaries in an environment that celebrates exploration and experimentation. Each composer brings sketches of material he or she would like to develop using Zeitgeist as a compositional laboratory. The workshop takes place over a five-day period in which each composer works directly with the ensemble, composes new material, and attends the working sessions of the other composers.