

JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2008 Grants Awarded in Music

American Composers Forum

The AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM, St. Paul, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$282,000 in support of the Jerome Composers Commissioning Program, serving emerging New York City and Minnesota composers, the subito program and consulting services for emerging composers. The Forum nurtures the creative spirit of composers and communities. It provides opportunities for composers and their music to flourish. Since 1978, Jerome Foundation has supported the Composers Commissioning Program. Composers apply with a performer/performing ensemble or a presenting organization committed to premiering the new work. The subito program provides small grants to composers who have particular opportunities to advance their careers. This substantial commitment to the Forum supports many commissioning and professional development subsidies for emerging composers in the Foundation's two geographic regions.

American Composers Orchestra

The AMERICAN COMPOSERS ORCHESTRA, New York City, received \$30,000 over two years in support of commissions for New York City and/or Minnesota emerging composers. The American Composers Orchestra is dedicated to the creation, performance, preservation and promulgation of music by American composers. It identifies today's brightest emerging composers and increases awareness of the infinite variety of American orchestral music. It serves as an incubator for ideas, research and talent as well as a catalyst for growth and change. The Emerging Composers Program, the focus of Jerome subsidy, nurtures the development of early-career American composers and enhances performance opportunities and exposure. Within this multifaceted program, commissions are awarded, in addition to fellowships, residencies, professional development services and readings of new work.

Bang on a Can

BANG ON A CAN, Brooklyn, New York, received \$10,000 in support of commissions awarded to two emerging composers within the People's Commissioning Fund. Bang on a Can brings innovative and adventurous music to broad and diverse audiences. One of its aims is to discover emerging composers and ensembles that explore new musical frontiers. The People's Commissioning Fund, launched in 1997, offers emerging composers the opportunity to create new work performed by the Bang on a Can All-Stars, virtuoso musicians whose collaborations with experimental composers push both into new areas and bring listeners closer to the music. The premieres take place within an annual People's Commissioning Fund concert, preceded by an open rehearsal. Some of the commissions enter the repertoire for the All-Stars, whose performance tours take them to various parts of the world each year.

Ethos Percussion Group

ETHOS PERCUSSION GROUP, New York City, received \$22,500 in support of the Emerging Composers Commissioning Fund. Since 1989, Ethos Percussion Group has presented percussion music utilizing an ensemble of accomplished classical and world music artists, each with a distinctive background and musical perspective. Its programming integrates global instruments and playing styles into the conventions of Western chamber music to create visually and aurally compelling experiences. To date, support from Jerome Foundation has underwritten 23 commissions of new music for the ensemble. Continued support allowed Ethos to commission new works for percussion quartet from three emerging composers and present those works in public performances in 2008 and 2009. The objectives of the Fund are to serve emerging composers by subsidizing the creation of new work and to develop creative partnerships from a wide range of genres in order to expand the literature for percussion and the audience for contemporary concert music.

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

The ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S, New York City, received \$8,000 to support commissions for new works by two emerging composers. These new works were presented during the 2007 **Notable Women** festival and the 2007-08 **Second Helpings** series. The **Second Helpings** series presents repeat performances of recently written works and premieres of new works, many of those commissioned by St. Luke's. St. Luke's functions both as an orchestra and as a chamber ensemble, presenting a wide range of repertoire. It has premiered and recorded more than 100 new works by contemporary composers.

Roulette Intermedium

ROULETTE, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$48,000 in support of payments to emerging composers and services provided to those composers. Roulette is a leader in the field of new music, offering over 50 concerts each year, commissioning new works, offering distribution and information services, providing rehearsal and recording facilities, and producing television and Internet programs that bring the work of contemporary composers to audiences throughout the world. As a substantial programmer of experimental music, Roulette is an incubator in its support for emerging composers. Its adventurous programming provides opportunities for composers to present new works and works-in-progress to audiences knowledgeable and responsive to new directions in music.

JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2008 Grants Awarded in Music

Roulette Intermedium

ROULETTE INTERMEDIUM, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$40,000 in support of the Jerome Commissioning Program for Emerging Composers. Since its founding in 1978, Roulette's purpose has been to increase the awareness and understanding of experiments in music and intermedia by supporting artists creating work in these forms. The Jerome Commissioning Program identifies and supports young composers of promise whose explorations promise valuable contributions to the development of contemporary music. Commissions support an extraordinary variety of musical approaches including music for traditional concert situations in the classical experimental tradition, sound installations, jazz, digital multimedia, music composed for the Internet and resuscitations of obsolete digital and analog technology. The commissions are made through a nominating process that relies on the experience and generosity of more established artists who serve as nominators. Each nominates one artist, paying special attention to artists who've not yet entered the world of competitive grants and commissions, and artists who are unlikely to receive support from other sources due to the experimental nature of their work.

VocalEssence

VOCALLESSENCE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$27,000 in support of the 2008 Essentially Choral Program. VocalEssence is recognized for its innovative exploration of music for voices and instruments. Its mission is to explore music for the human voice from spoken word to choral singing. Essentially Choral encourages emerging composers to create choral work and supports them as they develop it. VocalEssence partners with the American Composers Forum on the call for scores, the mechanics of the selection process and services offered to composers. Five composers are selected from applications submitted in response to an open call to have works-in-progress read by the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, a 32-voice professional chorus directed by Philip Brunelle. This program encourages stylistically diverse and experimental composition. Rehearsals with the Ensemble Singers, professional development seminars, one-on-one coaching and reading rehearsals combine to make an intensive experience for the composers.

Zeitgeist

ZEITGEIST, St. Paul, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$27,000 in support of its Composer Workshop. Zeitgeist's mission is to enliven today's music and enlarge its public with performances that absorb, stimulate and hearten. A group of musicians animated by a spirit of adventure and collaboration, Zeitgeist presents works with passion and integrity and tries to forge new links between musicians and music lovers. The Composer Workshop is designed to give emerging composers opportunities to develop their creative ideas and stretch artistic boundaries in an environment that celebrates exploration and experimentation. The focus is not on the completion of a composition but rather on the generation and development of ideas and the exploration of musical possibilities. Zeitgeist musicians become a compositional laboratory for composers who bring material they would like to develop. The Workshop extends over five days and includes two open rehearsals of the pieces for other composers and the public.