

JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2009 Music Grants

American Composers Forum

The AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM, St. Paul, Minnesota, received \$97,000 in support of various programs serving emerging composers based in New York City and Minnesota. The Forum enriches lives by providing opportunities for composers and their music to flourish and engage communities in the creation, performance, and enjoyment of new music. Much of the grant supports the Jerome Composers Commissioning Program, which subsidizes the creation of new musical works by emerging composers, composer/performers, improvisers, and sound artists. The Program welcomes applications in all musical genres including jazz, experimental, classical, improvised, sound art, and international styles. A proactive initiative, the Minnesota Emerging Composer Awards, provides commissions for composers working in a diverse range of musical styles and genres, using a rotating nominating process. Jerome funds also support the Subito program for Minnesota emerging composers and consulting services offered by Forum staff to composers. Subito provides small grants to composers for a variety of purposes such as recording expenses and extra rehearsal time to improve performance quality of new work.

International Friendship Through the Performing Arts

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE PERFORMING ARTS, Burnsville, Minnesota, received \$9,000 to support the commissioning of three new music compositions by composer Gao Hong. The mission of the organization is to help bridge the gaps between the many diverse cultures found in the United States by promoting intercultural fellowship, interaction, and understanding through activities in the performing arts. It presents, books, and commissions performers of indigenous instruments from a variety of cultures. Gao Hong is creating three new works, *Celebration*, written for pipa with taiko, sitar, cello, percussion, and tabla; *Chun, Xia, Qia, Dong*, written for the new music ensemble Zeitgeist; and *Impressions of Yunnan* for Hong's newly formed new music ensemble Intersection.

ISSUE Project Room

ISSUE PROJECT ROOM, New York City, received \$12,000 in support of its artist in residence program for emerging composers based in New York City and Minnesota. ISSUE Project Room is a multidisciplinary art space where artists conduct, exhibit, and perform new and site-specific work. The organization fosters a wide range of artistic projects that challenge and expand conventional practices in art. Funding supports three emerging composers or composer-led ensembles for four-month residencies. Each participates in an individually-designed experimental laboratory opportunity to test new compositional ideas and have the option of presenting the work throughout the residency at ISSUE Project Room. The goals of the program are to support the creative work of emerging composers, introduce them to the New York City community, foster new collaborations, garner media exposure, and work on building audiences for experimental work.

The Jazz Gallery

THE JAZZ GALLERY, New York City, received \$25,000 to support four commissions for emerging composers working with large ensembles and the performance of their new works. The Jazz Gallery is a cultural center that provides an international venue where a new generation of professional jazz musicians can be nurtured, giving them a performance venue with attentive audiences. The Gallery identifies emerging composers who are on the verge of major recognition for their contribution to large ensemble composition. Jerome grant dollars support commissions and performances.

Meet The Composer

MEET THE COMPOSER, New York City, received \$19,600 in support of the Creative Connections program, dedicated to supporting composers' active participation in performances of their work. Meet The Composer fosters the creation, performance, dissemination, and appreciation of music by contemporary composers. Creative Connections makes grants of \$250 to \$5,000, which enable composers to participate in activities connected with performances of their work, thus building audiences for new music. Activities may include participation in rehearsals, coaching performers, discussions with audiences, workshops, and interactive presentations. Jerome support is restricted to emerging composers based in New York City and Minnesota.

Ann Millikan/American Composers Forum

The AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM, St. Paul, Minnesota, as fiscal sponsor for composer ANN MILLIKAN, received \$12,000 in support of a recording of Millikan's orchestral compositions. Millikan is exploring orchestration in depth and promoting herself as an orchestral composer. Having a recording of her orchestral music will give her an important tool for encouraging new performances and commissions. The recording includes three new compositions scored for full orchestra.

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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, avant jazz, digital multimedia, music composed for the Internet, and even Frankenstein-type 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.

ROULETTE also received \$24,000 to support programs and services for emerging composers. It presents the work of over 150 artists each year. Funding supports the contemporary music series, rehearsal and recording facilities, distribution and information services, and television and Internet programs that bring the work of contemporary composers to audiences worldwide.

Savage Aural Hotbed/Springboard for the Arts

SPRINGBOARD FOR THE ARTS, St. Paul, Minnesota, as fiscal sponsor for SAVAGE AURAL HOTBED, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$7,840 in support of the creation and production of new work. Savage Aural Hotbed is a musical ensemble that composes and performs with found objects and conventional percussion instruments, bass guitar, electronically modified horns, vocals, and power tools. The ensemble creates visual and aural spectacles with high-energy rhythms, flailing drummer arms, unusual looking instruments, and flying sparks. Drawing from many different styles of music, the four ensemble members collaborate in the compositional process. Jerome support is directed toward the creation and recording of singular sounds or rhythmic phrases, later assembled in various compositions performed in concert settings and recorded on a CD.

VocalEssence

VOCALESSENCE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$26,460 in support of Essentially Choral 2009. VocalEssence explores music for the human voice, from spoken word to choral singing. It has an unwavering commitment to contemporary composers and has been recognized for its adventurous programming of contemporary music. Jerome support is directed toward Essentially Choral, a program nurturing emerging composers in the field of writing for the human voice. An annual open call for scores for developmental reading sessions designed to benefit participating composers is issued. Reading rehearsals, one-on-one and group meetings with conductor Philip Brunelle and an established composer mentor, and professional development seminars make for a comprehensive immersion experience, over three days, for emerging 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 want to develop. The Workshop extends over five days and includes two open rehearsals of the pieces for other composers and the public.