

JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2007 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 \$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 that is 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

A grant of \$12,000 was authorized for BANG ON A CAN, Brooklyn, New York, in support of commissions for three emerging composers, Stefan Weisman, Lukas Ligeti and Joshua Penman. Bang on a Can brings innovative and adventurous music of our time to broad and diverse audiences. It aims to discover emerging composers and ensembles that explore new musical frontiers. In the People's Commissioning Fund, Bang on a Can offers commissions to emerging composers to create music for the Bang on a Can All-Stars, an ensemble of virtuoso musicians whose collaborations with experimental composers push both into new areas. The new works are performed during the People's Commissioning Fund week, which culminates in a concert at Merkin Hall. WNYC/FM produces live broadcasts of the People's Commissioning Fund concerts, including interviews with the composers. Select works become part of the repertoire of the All-Stars, whose performance tours take the works to various parts of the world.

Chanticleer

A memorial grant of \$15,000 honoring the service of Maud Hill Schroll, Jerome Hill's sister, to the Jerome Foundation as one of its original Members was authorized to CHANTICLEER, an exemplary orchestra of voices, based in San Francisco, California, for the commissioning and presentation of a new work.

Ethel's Foundation for the Arts

ETHEL'S FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS, New York City, received \$12,000 in support of commissions for emerging composers, instrument construction and rehearsal. The ensemble explores new possibilities in string quartet performance, forging a repertoire unencumbered by convention, genre or style. Its performance schedule and regular touring ensure plentiful opportunities for presentation of new works. Jerome funding will support commissions to three emerging composers, one of whom will be creating four bowed instruments for the members of Ethel to use in performance. Ethel musicians will work with composers during rehearsal to provide feedback in the development of the works. When selecting composers to commission, Ethel examines each composer's body of work and its relevance to Ethel's performance aesthetic, the degree of artistic innovation, and how the work may diversify Ethel's repertoire.

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Ethos Percussion Group

Directors authorized a two-year grant of \$45,000 to ETHOS PERCUSSION GROUP, New York City, 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.

The Jazz Gallery

THE JAZZ GALLERY, New York City, received \$20,000 to commission new works from emerging jazz composers. This artist salon stimulates creative growth and provides an opportunity for artists and audiences to gather in an informal concert setting. Jerome support will be directed to the 2007 Composers' Series, in which six emerging composers will be commissioned to write new extended compositions, or a series of related pieces to be presented at The Jazz Gallery. Once the composers have completed individual performance presentations, a finale will be organized to bring all composers, in pairings of their choosing, to present a series of concerts over three consecutive nights. Master composer Oliver Lake will be available for consultation to the composers.

Meet the Composer

MEET THE COMPOSER, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$40,000 for Creative Connections grants to emerging composers in Minnesota and New York City. Meet The Composer fosters the creation, performance and recording of music by American composers and develops new audiences for their work. The men and women who write music are brought into personal contact with their audiences. Creative Connections (formerly the Meet The Composer Fund) supports the participation of composers in activities connected with performances of their work. Audiences participate in such composer-led activities as creative workshops, discussions, interactive presentations and in-school residencies. The grants also allow composers to inform the rehearsal of their works and perform in and/or conduct premieres. With four funding cycles per year, this program is responsive to musical ensembles and composers.

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. ROULETTE also received a two-year grant of \$48,000 in support of the development and presentation of new works by emerging composers, and the provision of services to those composers. As a substantial programmer of experimental music, Roulette is an incubator in its support for emerging composers. It provides opportunities for composers to present new works and works-in-progress to audiences knowledgeable and responsive to new directions in music.

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, explores the interaction of voices and instruments through innovative programming of music, past and present. Its audiences expect the unexpected. A Jerome Foundation grant of \$25,000 was authorized for the 2007 Essentially Choral Program. Five emerging composers are competitively selected from applications submitted in response to an open call. The mission of Essentially Choral is to support the development of new works by emerging composers, explore diverse compositional styles, cultivate the career development of emerging composers, break traditional boundaries of composition and provide new repertoire for the choral music field. The program includes informational seminars, professional development opportunities, two rehearsals of the composers' works with the chorus under the direction of Philip Brunelle, group and one-on-one sessions with conductor Brunelle and a senior composer mentor, critique sessions with peer composers and a culminating reading rehearsal that is recorded for the composers' use.

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.