AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM

Photos: (clockwise from top left): the Providence String Quartet (Providence, R.I.) received an Encore grant to perform a work by composer Geoffrey Hudson (Pelham, Mass.); Mvskoke nation composer Joy Harjo (New Mexico) was awarded a FNCI grant; composer Peter O’Gorman (White Bear Lake, Minn.) received a McKnight Fellowship; composer Wang Jie (Philadelphia, Pa.) and conductor Osmo Vänskä go over her score for “Symphony No. 1: Awakenings,” performed at a Future Classics concert at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, during the Minnesota Orchestra Composers Institute.

Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute photos on cover and page 4 by Greg Helgeson. Peter O’Gorman photo by V. Paul Virtucio.
A letter from
John Nuechterlein
President and CEO

The American Composers Forum enriches lives by nurturing the creative spirit of composers and communities. We provide new opportunities for composers and their music to flourish, and engage communities in the creation, performance, and enjoyment of new music.

My friend and muse, celebrated composer Libby Larsen, recently told an audience that “music is alive and well in our culture,” and she said it with an exclamation point! I agree with her. You don’t have to follow an organization like the American Composers Forum to know that music is being created in more and varied ways than ever before, and by more people than ever before. While the full-time, professional composer is still relatively rare, options abound for exploring composition on a part-time basis with limited training. With the exception of disappearing music programs in our schools, avenues for creative musical expression have grown and multiplied.

With deepest gratitude to countless individuals, I am thrilled to open this report by noting the 35th anniversary of the American Composers Forum in 2010! The Forum was actually birthed in 1973 through a series of concerts called the “Forums”, but its articles of incorporation were signed on March 19, 1975 by six intrepid individuals: Dennis Russell Davies, Libby Larsen, Stephen Paulus, James Reese, Eric Stokes and Suzanne Weil. Little did they know what the idea would become, and it’s an honor indeed to lead an organization that blazed so many trails in its quest to serve living artists and the communities in which they live.

You will read in these pages a short list of our many accomplishments in FY2010, none of which could have been accomplished without our fine staff, zealous board and, of course, the hundreds of composers and performers we serve. As a leader in the field of new music, ACF will continue to break new ground and encourage a much wider audience to appreciate and commission new music. Our very purpose is to offer a place of meaningful connection and discovery. Like the original six signers to the articles of incorporation, we are dedicated to making a difference in this world through the music of living composers.

John Nuechterlein
Program Highlights

• Awarded over $540,000 in grants to a diverse group of composers and performers of new music.
• Through our Encore program, funded multiple performances of new works by 175 performers in 28 states and 5 countries.
• Awarded 16 grants to Native American composers and performers from thirteen different nations.
• Released 37 new titles on innova and finalized an agreement with Naxos of America for world-wide distribution of the entire innova catalog, including digital, physical, streaming library, mechanicals, and licensing.
• Inaugurated the Minnesota Emerging Composer Awards (MECA), which consist of unrestricted grants to three Minnesota composers of jazz, electronic, and world music.
• Partnered with the Minnesota Orchestra to produce the ninth annual Composer Institute, a nationally recognized program comprised of workshops, coaching sessions, rehearsals, and a public performance of new orchestral pieces composed by talented emerging composers from throughout the United States.
• Concluded the decade-long Continental Harmony national commissioning project with the premiere of a new multi-media work entitled “Lowak Shoppala’ (Fire and Light) by Chickasaw composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha’ Tate in Ada, Oklahoma.

• Composers Datebook reached 1.1 million listeners each week through 157 public radio stations nationwide. With support from the College Band Directors National Association, began adding 50 new installments devoted to wind band repertory.

Membership/Professional Development
• Maintained an active membership base of over 1,800 composers, conductors and performers, with members in all 50 states and 12 countries.
• Produced Hollywood Calling: An Insider’s Guide to Film Scoring, which drew composers from throughout the United States to the two-day workshop.

“It’s a very important thing for composers to be thinking about younger people. I had never thought about doing it before and ACF’s BandQuest® has now sparked that interest for me.” – Alex Shapiro
Program Highlights

Education

• Reached over 450,000 children to date through the BandQuest® series.
• Friday Harbor Middle School in Friday Harbor, Wash. premiered the first-ever electroacoustic BandQuest® piece, Paper Cut, by composer Alex Shapiro.
• Taught composition curriculum to educators from five communities across Minnesota with Music for Kids by Kids Tours Minnesota.
• Connected BandQuest® with hundreds of music educators at the Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference in the exhibition hall and through a presentation, “Teaching Teachers How to Teach Composition in the Classroom”, by Michael Colgrass.

Chapter Activity

• Sonic Circuits Festival in Washington, D.C. (September 2009) featured composers from nearly a dozen countries.
• ACF/LA conducted its first annual composition competition with Mile Memorial Playhouse in Santa Monica, Calif.
• ACF/Bay Area awarded 68 grants totaling over $87,000 for their subito and Community Partner programs, and produced two Composer Workshops and two Reading Sessions.
• ACF Philadelphia awarded 27 grants totaling $72,000 through its subito and Community Partners programs. It also hosted two Composer to Composer events, three professional development workshops, and one New Voices concert featuring world premieres by six Philadelphia area composers.

“ACF has been a real life-saver for us — to create, perform, and record.”

— Carrie Vecchione and Rolf Erdahl

innova’s NYFA series celebrated 25 years of New York New Music via 9 CDs that Downbeat called a “stunning document of a historical culture.” Over 55 artists were featured, each of whom had been awarded Fellowships in Music Composition from the New York Foundation for the Arts.
Program Winners

Ensemble
ACME (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
Calliope (Minneapolis, Minn.)
Winston Choi (Chicago, Ill.)
Claremix (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
Dither Electric Guitar Quartet (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
Duo Solo (Stillwater, Okla.)
Ethel (New York, N.Y.)
Randall Hall (Bettendorf, Iowa)
Yuri Inoo (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Matthew McCright (Edina, Minn.)
Mivos Quartet (New York, N.Y.)
New Spectrum Ensemble (Palo Alto, Calif.)
Providence String Quartet (Providence, R.I.)
Quintet of the Americas (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
Jeff Vickers (El Dorado, Ariz.)
Vientos Trio (Altadena, Calif.)
Zodiac Trio (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

Faith Partners
Elizabeth Alexander (St. Paul, Minn.)
William Beckstrand (Grand Portage, Minn.)

Jerome Composer Commissioning Program (JCCP)
Darcy James Argue (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
Benjamin Broening (Richmond, Va.)
Christopher Danforth (St. Paul, Minn.)
Elizabeth Hoffman (New York, N.Y.)
Kathleen McTavish (Duluth, Minn.)
Neel Murgai (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
Dafna Naphati (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
Gregory Spears (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
Chris Thomson (Minneapolis, Minn.)
Daniel Wohl (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

“I used to think that I was the only one out there crazy enough to write orchestra music and then the American Composers Forum connected me. Thank you American Composers Forum.”
— Brian Wilbur Grundstrom
Program Winners

McKnight Composer Fellowships
Neal Hagberg (Minneapolis, Minn.)
Jocelyn Hagen (Minneapolis, Minn.)
Ann Millikan (St. Paul, Minn.)
Peter O’Gorman (White Bear Lake, Minn.)

McKnight Visiting Composer Residencies
Ellen Fullman (Berkeley, Calif.)
David James Nielsen (Westlake Village, Calif.)

Minnesota Emerging Composer Awards (MECA)
JP Hungelmann (Minneapolis, Minn.)
Kevin Washington (Minneapolis, Minn.)
Yilma Woldemedhen (Minneapolis, Minn.)

Welcome Christmas
Michael Glasgow (Raleigh, N.C.)
Robert Sieving (Minnetonka, Minn.)

First Nations Composer Initiative
Richard Auld (Muscogee; Alaska)
Oskii Giizhik (Ojibwe; Minn.)
Joy Harjo (Mvskoke; N.M.)
Shirley Kendall (Tlingit; Alaska) and Maria William (Haida; Alaska)
Cheryl L’Hirondelle (Mestis; Calif.)
Lightening Creek (Nez Perce; Idaho)
Shelly Morning Song (Northern Cheyenne; N.M.)
Grand Canyon Music Festival (Ariz.)
Porcupine Singers (Lakota; S.D.)
Murray Porter (Mohawk; British Columbia, Canada)
Janet Rogers (Mohawk; British Columbia, Canada)
Ian Skorodin (Choctaw; Calif.)
Ella Rose Sloan (Nez Perce; Idaho)
Arigon Starr (Kickapoo; Calif.)
Tash Terry (Navajo; Ariz.)
Mitch Walking Elk (Cheyenne Arapaho; Minn.)

“It’s a gift to be able to spend my life writing music, and without ACF, I would never have received this initial opportunity. Simply put, I can’t imagine my life without the American Composers Forum.”
— Robert Paterson

Photos (top to bottom): Through a JCCP grant, a work by Minneapolis composer Chris Thomson will be performed by the TU Dance company; an Encore grant funded Chicago performances of a work by Minneapolis composer Kirsten Broberg.
### innova Recordings FY 2010

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Artist/Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Sterman</td>
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<td>Andrew Violette</td>
<td>Songs and Dances, UltraViolette</td>
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<td>Anti-Social Music</td>
<td>Fracture, the Music of Pat Muchmore</td>
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<td>Barton McLean</td>
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<td>Beta Collide</td>
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<td>BLOB</td>
<td>Earphonious Swamphony</td>
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<td>Christopher Burns</td>
<td>Triptych, &lt;541&gt; Music from Stanford, Vol. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Almond</td>
<td>Portraits &amp; Elegies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gao Hong</td>
<td>Quiet River, Flowing Stream</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gene Pritsker</td>
<td>Varieties of Religious Experience Suite, GVSU New Music Ensemble, ( \text{Bill Ryan, dir:} ) Terry Riley’s In C Remixed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harley Gaber</td>
<td>I Saw My Mother Ascending Mount Fuji</td>
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<td>Jamie Begian Big Band</td>
<td>Big Fat Grin</td>
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<td>Judith Shatin</td>
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<td>Lawrence Moss</td>
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<td>Marina Rosenfeld/George Lewis</td>
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<td>Maya Beiser</td>
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<td>Michael Ellison</td>
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<td>Nathaniel Stookey</td>
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<td>The NYFA Collection</td>
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<td>Salo</td>
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<td>Society for New Music</td>
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<td>Timothy McAllister</td>
<td>GLINT</td>
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<td>UST Symphonic Wind Ensemble</td>
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<td>Volti</td>
<td>Turn the Page, Venus Notorious</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zeitgeist</td>
<td>In Bone-Colored Light</td>
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“The Forum has been pivotal for my work.”
— Kathy McTavish

*Photo top to bottom: innova artists Gao Hong (Minneapolis, Minn.); Andrew Violette (New York, N.Y.), Maya Beiser (Brooklyn, N.Y.), and Nathaniel Stookey (San Francisco, Calif.)*
Corporate, Foundation, and Government Support

$100,000+
- Bush Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- McKnight Foundation
- Minnesota State Arts Board
- William Penn Foundation

$50,000-$99,999
- Jerome Foundation
- National Endowment for the Arts

$25,000-$49,999
- Otto Bremer Foundation
- Saint Paul Cultural STAR

$10,000-$24,999
- Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation
- Aaron Copland Fund
- Argosy Foundation
- Athwín Foundation
- College Band Directors National Association
- General Mills Foundation
- George Frederick Jewett Foundation
- Rosemary H. and David F. Good Family Foundation
- Kellogg Foundation
- Mardag Foundation

$5,000-$9,999
- Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation of The Saint Paul Foundation
- MAHADH Fund of HRK Foundation
- Wenger Foundation

$1,000-$4,999
- Amphion Foundation, Inc.
- ASCAP
- BMI Foundation
- Margaret Rivers Fund
- Mary Livingston Griggs/Griggs Burke Foundation
- RBC Dain Rauscher
- Wells Fargo Foundation

Up to $999
- Ecolab
- Native Americans in Philanthropy
- Matching gifts
- Ameriprise
- Travelers

Gifts from Individuals

Grand Champion ($10,000+)
- Louis F. and Kathrine E. Hill

Champion ($5,000 - $9,999)
- Anonymous

Benefactor ($2,500 - $4,999)
- Leatart Hough Dunnette and Bob Muschewski

Nancy and Richard Huart with matching funds from Travelers Foundation

Hella Mears and Bill Hueg Arts and Higher Education Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation

Art and Martha Kaemmer Fund of HRK Foundation

Daniel and Constance Kunin

Patron ($1,000 - $2,499)
- Meredith Brown Alden
- Todd Bault
- Barbara Ann Brown
- J. Peter Brull Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
- Philip and Carolyn Brunelle
- Scott F. Clugston
- Carol Heen and Charles Boone
- Kenneth and Gwendolyn Freed
- Linda and Jack Hoeschler
- Family Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation
- Sam Hseng-Hung Hsu
- Mike and Kay McCarthy
- Walt McCarthy and Clara Ueland
- McNeely Foundation
- Evans Mirageas and Thom Dreeze

Sponsor ($500 - $999)
- Albrecht Family Foundation
- Dawn Avery
- James and Susan Berdahl
- Robert and Mary Brod
- Nicky B. Carpenter
- Joan Duddington
- Joy Harjo
- Jennifer Higdon
- Thelma Hunter

In honor of Libby Larsen

David and Perrin Lilly
- Katherine Majkrzak
- R. Carlos Nakai
- David O’Fallon
- John and Debbie Orenstein
- Larry M. O’Shaughnessy
- Steven Ovitsky
- Eugene C. Rogers
- James Wafler

Aficionado ($250 - $499)
- Mark Applebaum and Joan Friedman
- Carol Barnett
- Choi-Chiu and King-Wo Lam Family Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
- Anders and Julie Himmelstrop
- Beth Hoger and Lisa Swem
- Aaron Jay Kernis
- Lori Klopfenstein
- Terry Knowles and Marshall Rutter
- John Michel
- David and Leni Moore
- Rev. and Mrs. Louis Nuechterlein
- Kristen and Terry O’Brien
- Stanislaw and Krystyna Skrowaczewski
- Nancy Uischer
- Janika Vandervelde
- Noel Zahler

“I wanted to write string quartets, choral anthems, oboe and clarinet duets... And yes, I'll admit it — symphonies. I responded to ACF and their calls for scores from all over the world, places I was never going to get on my own.”

— Anonymous
“Congratulations on your vibrant 35 years of dedicated service for all composers, performers, and lovers of new music.” — Liz Wolff

The American Composers Forum is a fiscal year 2010 recipient of a Institutional Support grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board.

This activity is made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008, a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Donors

**Enthusiast ($100 - $249)**
- Greg Allen
- Bruce and Mary Bean
- Fritz and Kate Bergmann
- William and Margee Bracken
- Mary Ellen Childs
- William Burke
- and Nancybell Coe
- Joanna and Richard Cortright
- Barbara Croall
- Kay Dawson
- Mary Deissler
- Lois DeWitt
- Glenna Dibrell
- and David Cummings
- Kevin Duggins
- Linda Eckman
- Cary John Franklin
- Robert and Katherine Goodale
- Stephen Green
- Donald and Lois Hoger
- Laura Barton-Holding
- David Hunter
- Lila Jacob
- John Kightlinger
- Libby Larsen
- Don and Joann Leavenworth
- Diana Lee Lucker
- Robert T. and Ann Lund
- Sarah Lutman
- Caroline Marshall
- Kristopher Kohl Miner
- Merritt C. Nequette
- Lowell and Sonja Noteboom
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- Irene Regener
- Barbara Rice
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- Michael and Shirley Santoro
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- Estelle Sell
- VERN Sutton
- Julie Strood
- Craig Swan
- Stephen and Jayne Usery
- Arlene Williams
- Dana Wilson
- David Wolff and Jennifer Ross
- Philip and Joanne Von Blon
- Ronald Zweber

**Contributor ($50 - $99)**
- Albert Biales
- Roger J. Bjorgan
- Alexander Blackburn
- Anselm Blumer
- Christopher Brunelle
- Arthur Campbell
- Cheryl Carnahan
- Alan Chan
- Jon Deak
- Michael Dellaia
- Sylvia Moe Dyrrhaug
- Michael Edwards
- Kent and Katherine Eklund
- Kathleen Hagen
- Anne Harney
- Craig Hultgren
- Amanda Husberg
- Noah Keesecker
- James Kendrick
- Mark Kizilos
- Karen Koepp
- Cecily and Alan Morse
- Timothy Olsen
- Alice Parker
- Dadee Reilly
- Thomas Scott
- Mary and Howard Sutherland
- David Evan Thomas
- Roger Towler
- Kristin Van Dorn
- Joseph Ward
- Sharon West
- David J. Wright

**Friend ($49 and under)**
- Anonymous
- John B. Austin
- Mary Lynn Badarak
- Heather Barringer
- Brad Baso
- Ann and David Buran
- Jeffrey Cadwell
- Craig Carnahan
- Justine Chen
- Susan M. Clambeye
- Sergio Cervetti
- Miguel Diaz
- Knowles Dougherty
- Robert M. Eckert
- John Elliott
- Geneva Eshweiler
- Kenneth Field
- Nancy Fushan
- Christopher Hoh
- Ruth Huber
- William Kempe
- Matt Lamb
- Barbara Leibundguth
- Cherise Leiter
- Tania Leon
- Amy Levine and Brian Horrigan
- Elizabeth Luttinger
- Stuart L. MacPhail
- Mark T. Nelson
- Peter Nostrand
- Ann O’Neill
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- Dr. Greg A. Steinke
- James Ten Bensel
- William Upham
- William Weir

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“What a wonderful experience it was to work with the American Composers Forum. I had the privilege of being one of the composers for the BandQuest series, and I really enjoyed writing something that I thought would be appealing to the junior high-middle school band level.”
— Chris Brubeck

Statement of Financial Activity for the year ending June 30, 2010

- Earned Income 14%
- Endowment Earnings 8%
- Corporation Grants 2%
- Membership 4%
- Individual Contributions 9%
- Government Grants 9%

- Foundation Grants 54%
- Development 9%
- Administration 10%
- Fiscal Agencies 7%
- Member Services 6%
- Chapters 14%
- Commissioning and Residency 27%
- Readings and Performances 2%
- Education 7%
- Media 18%

Financials

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Total Operations Income $1,821,762
Total Operations Expense $1,800,882
“Thank you ACF — you helped to open up worlds for my music.”
— Rain Worthington

For current contact information and staff, board, and chapter listings, visit www.composersforum.org

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