



In the key of **now**™

2014

Annual Report



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.



Make composers, and the music they create, a vibrant and integral part of our culture.



Photo: Fargo Public Schools

The Discovery Middle School 7th grade choir rehearses the newest *ChoralQuest*[®] work: "The Golden Queen" by René Clausen. The text was written by two students and reflects on the growth and changes faced throughout life.



ACF welcomes guests for a January open house at our new home at Landmark Center. ACF grantee Beatrix*JAR provides musical entertainment with interactive instruments made from upcycled children's toys.

ACF would like to extend a special thank you to all the organizations that partnered with us last year.

Alliance of Artists Communities (Providence, RI)
American Composers Orchestra (New York, NY)
American Public Media (Saint Paul, MN)
Amsterdam Bar & Hall (Saint Paul, MN)
Associated Church (Owatonna, MN)
Beatrix*JAR (Minneapolis, MN)
Caponi Art Park (Eagan, MN)
Children's Hospitals & Clinics of Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN)
Crossroads Elementary School (Saint Paul, MN)
Discovery Middle School (Fargo, ND)
Faith Lutheran Church (Morris, MN)
First Congregational United Church of Christ (Menomonie, WI)
First Lutheran Church (Fergus Falls, MN)
Harriet Tubman Center (Minneapolis, MN)
Interact Center for the Visual & Performing Arts (Saint Paul, MN)
KBEM Jazz FM (Minneapolis, MN)
MacPhail Center for Music (Minneapolis, MN)
Memphis Symphony Orchestra (Memphis, TN)
Midwest Special Services (Saint Paul, MN)
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee, WI)

Minnesota Boychoir (Saint Paul, MN)
Minnesota Music Coalition (Saint Paul, MN)
Minnesota Opera (Minneapolis, MN)
Minnesota Public Radio (Saint Paul, MN)
New Music USA (New York, NY)
Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Menomonie, WI)
Rosemount Middle School (Rosemount, MN)
Sacred Heart Catholic Parish (Owatonna, MN)
Sō Percussion (Brooklyn, NY)
The Bakken Museum (Minneapolis, MN)
The Catholic Church of the Assumption of Mary (Morris, MN)
The Federated Church (Fergus Falls, MN)
The Playwrights' Center (Minneapolis, MN)
The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (Saint Paul, MN)
The Works Museum (Bloomington, MN)
University of Minnesota School of Music (Minneapolis, MN)
VocalEssence (Minneapolis, MN)
Wayside House, Inc. (Saint Louis Park, MN)
Zeitgeist (Saint Paul, MN)

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Dear Friends,

As I look through our FY2014 report I'm astonished at how many ways we serve our **mission of connecting composers with community**. Last year, we worked with no fewer than thirty-nine partner organizations, ensembles and media outlets to support composers and connect them with their audiences.

The work ranges from classic (American Composers Orchestra *EARSHOT* sessions) to edgy (SPCO *Liquid Music Series*) to the unexpected (*Jazz Noir* radio drama). As part of her 2013 *McKnight Visiting Composer* residency, we were fortunate to engage with Jin Hi Kim and her Cross-Cultural Music Meditation Workshops in various Minneapolis communities. The sum of our programs and activities helped ACF become even more visible to the new music community and – equally important – **a broad and diverse audience of listeners**.

We were also delighted to once again offer the *ACF National Composition Contest* in 2014 – this time with the celebrated Sō Percussion ensemble at their Princeton-based Summer Institute. More than 250 composers applied for the opportunity, and our weekend with the three finalists was exhilarating. In only three short years, the program has become a nationally recognized opportunity for **connecting student composers with high profile, world-class ensembles**.

A big initiative for the year was the board-directed *Champion of New Music Awards*. The awards are part of an overall effort to **step up our advocacy for the field** in a significant way by recognizing individuals and ensembles who move the field forward. We were delighted to spotlight three extraordinary people in 2014:

Marin Alsop, Music Director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
Award presented at Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, Baltimore on June 6, 2014

Frances Richard, Retired Vice President and Director of Concert Music at ASCAP
Award presented at the ASCAP Awards, Merkin Concert Hall, New York on May 22, 2014

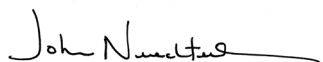
Steven Schick, performer, conductor, Artistic Director of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players
Award presented at Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Saint Paul on April 15, 2014

Critical to our mission is **programming that reaches middle and high school students**. Connecting students to professional composers is crucial to supporting a healthy, vibrant culture for creative work. *BandQuest*® and *ChoralQuest*® continue to bring world-class repertoire and interdisciplinary curriculum to middle-level students nationwide. With funding from the founding sponsor Knight Foundation, we were thrilled to launch the *NextNotes*™ *High School Composition Awards*, a national awards and mentorship program for high school students. Stay tuned as we uncover and nurture creative talent in the making.

In the coming year, we are looking forward to commemorating ACF's 40th Anniversary with the launch of a new program, *National Composer Night Out*, and a celebration on May 14, 2015. There are hundreds of people to thank and honor for their help in sustaining ACF as a vibrant and important organization in the field of music.

We hope you'll join us!

Sincerely,



John Nuechterlein
President and CEO



FOSTERING ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT FOR COMPOSERS

- Awarded more than \$375,000 in grants to a diverse group of composers and performers of new music.
- In partnership with Sō Percussion, produced the third annual *ACF National Composition Contest*, which encourages creativity by United States graduate and undergraduate student composers. Todd Lerew, a student at CalArts at the time of the competition, was the final winner and will have his piece toured by the ensemble in future seasons.
- Awarded the fourth year of *Live Music for Dance Minnesota* grants to composers, choreographers, and Minnesota-based professional dance companies.
- Launched a new concert series, *ACF Showcase: From Landmark to Lowertown*, which included a performance by the Zeitgeist new music ensemble of four works chosen from a national call, which generated more than 80 submissions.
- Partnered with KBEM Jazz FM and the Playwrights' Center on *Jazz Noir* to commission a composer and playwright to create a radio drama which was performed live and recorded for future regional broadcast.
- Partnered with American Composers Orchestra in the *EARSHOT* reading program at Detroit Symphony Orchestra and New York Philharmonic, as well as the *ACO Underwood New Music Readings*.

53
new works created
through grants
& programs in
the past year



Photo: Dylan Greene

Sō Percussion performs the final concert of the 2014 *ACF National Composition Contest* at Princeton University's Matthews Theatre.

INSPIRING STUDENTS WITH FRESH MUSIC

- Reached more than 677,800 children to date through the *BandQuest®* and *ChoralQuest®* series.
- The three 8th grade bands at Rosemount Middle School (Rosemount, MN) premiered the 21st *BandQuest®* piece, "Letter from Sado" by Australian composer Jodie Blackshaw.
- The 7th grade choir at Discovery Middle School (Fargo, North Dakota) premiered the fifth piece in the *ChoralQuest®* series, "The Golden Queen" by René Clausen.
- Connected *BandQuest®* with hundreds of music educators at the Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference in the exhibition hall and through a performance of "Charm" by Kevin Puts.
- Continued a partnership with Classical Minnesota Public Radio by overseeing the composer category of the annual *Minnesota Varsity* competition for high school musicians. Five young composers received mentorship from Carol Barnett and heard their works read by a piano trio of graduate students from the University of Minnesota. Two of the five composers' works were then performed by the ensemble at the Fitzgerald Theater (Saint Paul, MN) during a live broadcast on MPR.
- Launched a new major national initiative: the *NextNotes™ High School Composition Awards*. With no restrictions on genre or style, the program is designed to award creative teenagers with mentorship, performances and scholarships.



Photo: Ingrid Martin

An 8th grader from Rosemount Middle School guest-conducts her band during the premiere performance of "Letter from Sado" by Jodie Blackshaw, the newest release in the *BandQuest®* series.

24
new works have been
published to date for
the *BandQuest®* &
ChoralQuest® series



Faith Partners composer Jake Runestad (far right) with singers from Faith Lutheran Church and The Catholic Church of the Assumption of Mary (Morris, MN).



360
new sacred works
commissioned in the
20-year history of
Faith Partners

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY & AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

- Launched *Faith Partners* residency projects in Fergus Falls and Owatonna, MN and continued residencies in Morris, MN and Menomonie, WI. The program celebrated 20 years of connecting composers with faith communities to create new sacred work.
- Co-hosted the third season of the *Composer Conversation Series* with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Minnesota Public Radio. Intended for music lovers of all stripes, the series allows audiences to engage directly with the most original, prominent and prestigious voices in composition. Hosted by Classical Minnesota Public Radio's Emily Reese and Fred Child, the 2013-14 season featured live interviews with distinctive creators John Luther Adams, Timo Andres and Gabriel Kahane, Vivian Fung, John Harbison, Shawn Jaeger and Dawn Upshaw, Matthias Pintscher, and Sufjan Stevens.
- Co-sponsored the second of *Liquid Music*, a concert series presented by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra that expands the world of classical music through innovative new projects and unique presentation formats. *Liquid Music* performances invite adventurous audiences of all ages to discover the new and the fascinating in the colorful landscape of classical music today. During the 2013-2014 season, ACF presented the work of Olga Bell, Ensemble Dal Niente and ETHEL.
- In collaboration with American Public Media, maintained a weekly cumulative audience of one million listeners of *Composers Datebook* on 165 public radio stations nationwide. 51 new shows were added to the catalog.



>1,859,000
people experienced
ACF's work in
the past year



Photo: Jayme Halbritter

An enthusiastic audience gathers to hear the Chicago-based, contemporary chamber music group Ensemble dal Niente premiere a work by *JFund* awardee Noah Keesecker. Presented in partnership with the *Liquid Music Series* of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

INNOVA RECORDINGS®

- Released 28 titles (total catalog is 486) by forward-looking (and hearing) composers and performers. Running the musical gamut, sounds ranged from "uncovers" of classic rock songs by "cello goddess" Maya Beiser to a historic documentation of musical legends by Creative Music Studio. *innova* continues to champion singular works.
- Secured consistent, high-visibility placement for titles in both the digital and physical marketplaces, including a major Classical Front Page feature on iTunes that showcased 20+ *innova* artists.
- Licensed *innova* artists' music to myriad sources and outlets including a Broadway show. *innova* is positioning itself as a one-stop shop for music supervisors and licensing agencies.
- Received major press recognition both nationally and internationally for our artists' projects (Wall Street Journal, Textura, Pitchfork, Gramophone, New York Times, to name just a few).
- Supported artists' tours and shows and continued to foster community connections through partnerships with programs including the *Liquid Music Series*.

ACF NATIONAL COMPOSITION CONTEST

Michael Laurello (New Haven, CT)
 Todd Lerew (Los Angeles, CA)
 Kristina Warren (Charlottesville, VA)

ACF SHOWCASE: FROM LANDMARK TO LOWERTOWN

Joshua Harris (Denton, TX)
 James May (Amery, WI)
 Gene Pritsker (New York, NY)
 Bruce Reiprich (Flagstaff, AZ)

CHAMPION OF NEW MUSIC AWARDS

Marin Alsop (Baltimore, MD)
 Frances Richard (New York, NY)
 Steven Schick (San Francisco, CA)

FAITH PARTNERS

Jon Strommen Campbell (Hillsboro, ND)
 Thomas Porter (Bismarck, ND)

JAZZ NOIR RADIO PROGRAM

John Penny (Golden Valley, MN)

JEROME FUND FOR NEW MUSIC (JFUND)

Greg Brososke (Minneapolis, MN)
 Alexei Casselle (Minneapolis, MN)
 Troy Herion (Brooklyn, NY)
 Shawn Jaeger (New York, NY)
 John Keston (Minneapolis, MN)
 Kathy McTavish (Duluth, MN)
 Jascha Narveson (Brooklyn, NY)
 Gity Razaz (Brooklyn, NY)
 Erin Rogers (Brooklyn, NY)
 Conrad Winslow (Brooklyn, NY)
 Gabriel Zucker (Brooklyn, NY)

LIVE MUSIC FOR DANCE MINNESOTA

Body Cartography Project (Minneapolis, MN)
 Brownbody (Vadnais Heights, MN)
 Joe Chvala (Minneapolis, MN)
 Jordan Cox (Becker, MN)
 Penelope Freeh (Saint Paul, MN)
 Jocelyn Hagen (Minneapolis, MN)
 Justin Jones (Minneapolis, MN)
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 Thomasina Petrus (Minneapolis, MN)
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 Twin Cities Ballet of Minnesota (Lakeville, MN)
 Janika Vandervelde (Saint Paul, MN)
 Jennifer Weir (Saint Paul, MN)
 Taja Will (Minneapolis, MN)
 Zenon Dance Company (Minneapolis, MN)

MCKNIGHT COMPOSER FELLOWSHIPS

Alex Freeman (Northfield, MN)
 Jocelyn Hagen (Minneapolis, MN)
 Michelle Kinney (Golden Valley, MN)
 George Maurer (Minneapolis, MN)

MCKNIGHT VISITING COMPOSER RESIDENCIES

Robin Eschner (Forestville, CA)
 Pamela Z (San Francisco, CA)

MINNESOTA EMERGING COMPOSER AWARDS (MECA)

Nona Marie Invie (Minneapolis, MN)
 Mark McGee aka MAKr (Minneapolis, MN)
 Davu Seru (Saint Paul, MN)

MINNESOTA VARSITY

Ava Heubner (Saint Cloud, MN)
 Riona Ryan (North Mankato, MN)

WELCOME CHRISTMAS

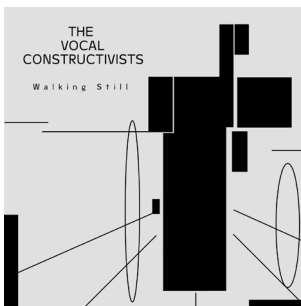
William V. Malpede (West Hollywood, CA)
 Dale Trumbore (Los Angeles, CA)



A promotional image from *Live Music for Dance Minnesota* grantees Penelope Freeh (choreographer) and Jocelyn Hagen's (composer) new work, "Test Pilot."

“*This program completely changed the trajectory of my career in an amazing way. It unlocked a side of my work that I didn't know existed and I found a new passion that gives me incredible joy and fulfillment.*”

—*Jocelyn Hagen, Live Music for Dance Minnesota*



New Releases

The Awakening Orchestra: Volume 1: This is not the answer
Guy Barash: Facts About Water
Mason Bates: Stereo Is King
Dan Becker: Fade
Maya Beiser: Uncovered
Philip Blackburn: Music of Shadows
Nils Bultmann: Troubadour Blue
Chris Campbell: Things You Already Know
Creative Music Studio: Archive Selections, Vol. 1
Mary Kathleen Ernst: Keeping Time
John Halle: Outrages and Interludes
Michael Hersch: Images From a Closed Ward
Jerome Kitzke: Paha Sapa Give-Back
Joseph Klein: Improbable Encounters

Bernd Klug: Cold Commodities
Peter Van Zandt Lane: HackPolitik
Anne LeBaron: Crescent City
Matt Levy: PRISM Quartet: People's Emergency Center
David Macbride: A Special Light
Justin Merritt: Blender
Robert Moran: Game of the Antichrist
Pat O'Keefe: Contents May Differ
PRISM Quartet: The Singing Gobi Desert
Judith Shatin: Time To Burn
Carei Thomas: Triade: Visits
The Vocal Constructivists: Walking Still
Bora Yoon: Sunken Cathedral
Jeff Zeigler: Glaub



Photo: Leslie Van Stelten

Sound artist, vocalist, and 2014 TED Fellow, Bora Yoon gathers sounds from myriad times and places to create immersive multi-media environments. Her remarkable album "Sunken Cathedral" is architectural and visceral. A tour de force that guides the listener through the familiar and the sublime.



Photo: ioulex

"Cello goddess" Maya Beiser's output has been called "Riveting" (New York Times). She "shreds," performing "a modern cello work over" (NPR). Her latest album "Uncovered" is a masterfully-realized marriage of concept and execution. She "uncovers" classic pop and rock songs, reimagining them in personal and provocative ways.

“... [innova Recordings] has matured into a label that documents all the thrilling stuff happening at the fringes of the American contemporary scene.” —**Jayson Greene**, *Wondering Sound*

Corporate, Foundation & Government Support

\$100,000+

Bush Foundation
Jerome Foundation
Knight Foundation
The McKnight Foundation
Minnesota State Arts Board
William Penn Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Athwin Foundation
Aaron Copland Fund
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\$1,000-4,999

ASCAP
BMI Foundation
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Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota

\$25,000-\$49,999

The Augustine Foundation
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\$5,000-\$9,999

MAHADH Fund of HRK Foundation
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Individual Support: Gifts between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014

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“*Being on the board of the ACF is like sitting on the ‘fifty-yard line’ of creative compositional activity in our country. ACF’s home in the Twin Cities mirrors that region of our country’s unique sense of civic duty and community, and the role of the arts in the lives of everyday people. ACF’s goals are indispensable to the cultural health of our country, and it is a privilege to contribute and serve them as a board member.*”

—David Conte, Composer & ACF Board Member



Statement of Financial Activity for the year ending June 30, 2014

INCOME

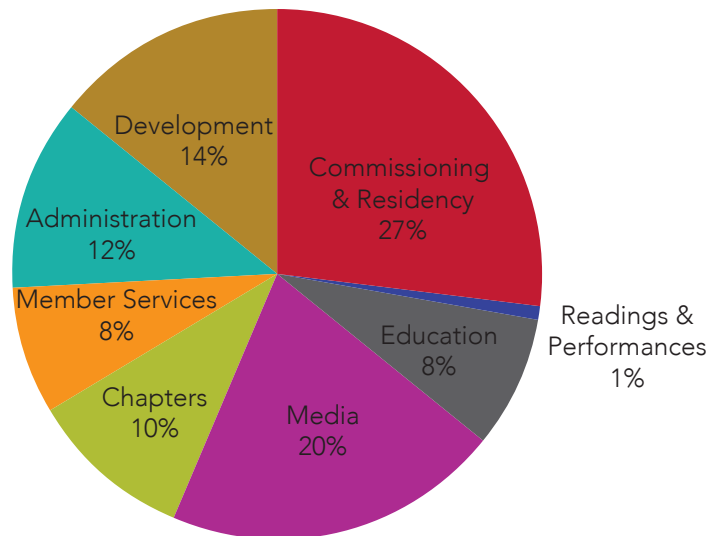
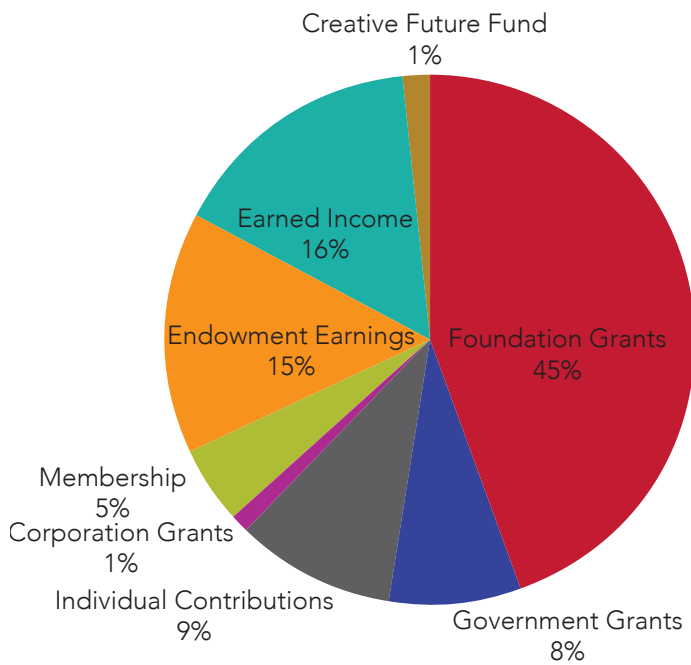
Foundation Grants	\$710,385
Government Grants	129,622
Individual Contributions	151,765
Corporation Grants	17,242
Membership	77,810
Endowment Earnings	233,931
Earned Income	248,061
Creative Future Fund	22,898

Total Operations Income **\$1,591,714**

EXPENSE

Commissioning & Residency	\$429,850
Readings & Performances	14,255
Education	126,306
Media	326,123
Chapters	160,325
Member Services	122,401
Administration	186,239
Development	224,177

Total Operations Expense **\$1,589,676**



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Tanner Britton, innova Assistant

Chris Campbell,* Operations Director, innova Recordings

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Laura Krider, Program & Social Media Manager

Bonnie Marshall, Vice President of Development

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John Michel, Membership Director & Composers Datebook Producer

John Nuechterlein, President & CEO

Jay Walters, Membership Services Representative

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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.



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