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.

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)  
The Bakken Museum (Minneapolis, 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 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.

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.
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.

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.
MEMBERSHIP

- Total membership remained strong at 1,700 composers, performers and educators in all 50 states and 14 countries.
- Added seven new schools to the school membership program, including the Curtis Institute of Music, University of Houston Moores School of Music, University of Northern Colorado School of Music, University of Virginia McIntire Department of Music, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and Wheaton College Conservatory of Music.
- Led membership focus groups in Brooklyn, Ann Arbor and San Francisco to discuss how ACF can serve the field better.

CHAPTER ACTIVITY

Los Angeles Chapter
- Produced Eureka: New California Song, a concert of art songs composed by six members, along with poetry readings in association with Red Hen Press.

Minnesota Chapter
- Partnered with Minnesota Opera to produce Composer-to-Composer events featuring guest composers Dominick Argento and Doug Cuomo, and with VocalEssence and guest composer Jonathan Dove. These events offer members the opportunity to connect with visiting composers on a personal level, usually centered around a premiere of a new work.
- ACF celebrated its new office in the historic Landmark Center on January 31, 2014. More than 200 guests including members, board, partners and friends joined staff for an informal “open office” featuring music and libations.

Philadelphia Chapter
- Awarded 15 grants totaling $52,000 through its Subito and Community Partners programs to Philadelphia-area composers.
- Offered a workshop on Cuban music with percussionist Arturo Stable.
- Produced two concerts on Composing Improvision featuring Matthew Shipp and Nate Wooley, and Rhodri Davies and Bhop Rainey.
- Selected 14 composers for a major collaboration with the City of Philadelphia’s Mural Arts Program to commission new works for well-known murals in Philadelphia.

One way ACF engages the new music community is through our weekly “Fill in the Blank Fridays” on social media. Seen here is one of last year’s most popular:

“Of all the rules I learned in music theory, this is the one I enjoy breaking the most: ___________________."

31% overall increase in followers on social media in the past year

Three of the winning composers from the Eureka: New California Song project: Jeffrey Parola, Kevin Kelly and Leslie La Barre.

Rhodri Davies (UK) talking about the use of improvisational elements within notated works at a workshop in Philadelphia.
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)
James May (Amery, WI)
Gene Pritsker (New York, NY)
Bruce Reiprich (Flagstaff, AZ)

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 Brofske (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)
Mila Vocal Ensemble (Saint Paul, MN)
Thomasina Petrus (Minneapolis, MN)
Paul John Rodoi (Minneapolis, MN)
Deborah Jinza Thayer (Saint Paul, MN)
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)

“ 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

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

“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

$25,000-$49,999
The Augustine Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
New Music USA
Otto Bremer Foundation

$10,000-$24,999
Atheyn Foundation
Aaron Copland Fund
General Mills Foundation
Rosemary H. & David F. Good Family Foundation
I.A. O’Shaughnessy Foundation

$5,000-$9,999
MAHADH Fund of HRK Foundation
Wenger Foundation

$1,000-4,999
ASCAP
BMI Foundation
Margaret Rivers Fund
Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota

EMPLOYEE MATCHING GIFTS
Ameriprise Foundation
Arts Federation
Ecolab Political Action Committee
General Mills Matching Gifts Foundation
Medtronic Inc.

Individual Support: Gifts between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014

GRAND CHAMPION
($10,000+)
Anonymous

CHAMPION
($5,000-9,999)
Anonymous
John L. Nuechterlein & Daniel R. Monson

BENEFACTOR
($2,500-4,999)
Anonymous
Meredith B. Alden
The Allegro Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation
Scott F. Clugston
Julia W. Dayton
Art & Martha Kaemmer Fund of HRK Foundation
Daniel & Constance Kunin
Hella L. Mears & William F. Hueg, Jr.
Alfred P. & Ann M. Moore
Kathleen van Bergen

PATRON
($1,000-2,499)
Albrecht Family Foundation & Gale Sharpe
Todd Bault
Barbara Ann Brown
Philip & Carolyn Brunelle
Chris & Claire Campbell
Choi-Chiu & King-Wo Lam

SPONSOR
($500-999)
Mark Applebaum & Joan Friedman
Susan M. Barnes
Carol Barnett
Bruce & Mary Bean

JIM & SUSAN BERDAHL
Robert & Mary Brod
J. Peter Brull Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Jorja Fleezanis
Melitta George
Paul Hanson & Steve Riendl
Leaetta Hough & Bob Muschewskie
David & Judy Myers
Louis & Gloria Nuechterlein
Steven Ovitsky
Eugene C. Rogers

AFICIONADO
($250-499)
Bryan & Suzanna Altman
Josephine B. Carpenter
Fred Child
Cathie & Jerry Fischer
Stephen Green
Beth Hoger & Lisa Swem
Lila & Harry Jacob
Vaughn & Lori Lane Klopfenstein
Libby Larsen
John Michel
Jane M. Miller
David & Leni Moore Family Foundation
Michael & Shirley Santoro
Stanislaw Skrowaczewski
Steven & Karen Sonnenberg

ENTHUSIAST
($100-249)
J. Anthony Allen
Mary Ann Aufderheide
Heather Barringer
John G. Bilotta
Dr. George Brandon

Elizabeth & Robert Burns,
In Honor of Craig Carnahan
Craig Carnahan
Patrick Castillo & Karen Kim
Mary Ellen Childs
Melinda Clark, In Honor & Thanksgiving of Emily Remington & Oscar L. Rodriguez
NancyBell Coe
David Conte
Joanna & Richard Cortright
Daniel G. Crozier, Jr.
Kay Dawson
Jon Deak
Ian Ding
Kevin Duggins
Paul A. Epstein
C. Lee Essig
Peter Flint
Alex Freeman Music
Michael & Nancy Coffin Geller
Mary Greer
Ed Harsh
Steve Heitzeg & Gwen Pappas
Anders & Julie Himmelstrup
Asako Hirabayashi
Donald & Lois Hoger
Kenneth & Linda Holmen
Monica T. Houghton
Chad Hughes
David Hunter
Aaron Jay Kernis
John Kightlinger
Marvin Lamb
Judie Lamble
Richard Langellotti
Don & Joann Leavenworth
Dr. Diana Lee Lucker
Sarah Lutman
Mark & Becky Lystig

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Aaron Jay Kernis
John Kightlinger
Marvin Lamb
Judie Lamble
Richard Langellotti
Don & Joann Leavenworth
Dr. Diana Lee Lucker
Sarah Lutman
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2014 Support
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
## 2014 Financials

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>Commissioning &amp; Residency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>$429,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>Readings &amp; Performances</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Earned Income</td>
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<td>Creative Future Fund</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chapters</td>
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<td>160,325</td>
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<td>Member Services</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>186,239</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>224,177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Operations Income          | $1,591,714                     |

| Total Operations Expense         | $1,589,676                     |

### Income Sources

- **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

### Expense Breakdown

- **Commissioning & Residency**: 27%
- **Readings & Performances**: 8%
- **Education**: 14%
- **Media**: 14%
- **Chapters**: 12%
- **Member Services**: 8%
- **Administration**: 10%
- **Development**: 12%
- **Management**: 5%
- **Corporation Grants**: 9%
- **Individual Contributions**: 8%

### Incomes as a Percentage

- **Creative Future Fund**: 1%
- **Earned Income**: 16%
- **Endowment Earnings**: 15%
- **Foundation Grants**: 45%
- **Government Grants**: 8%
- **Membership**: 5%
- **Corporation Grants**: 1%
- **Individual Contributions**: 9%
STAFF

National Staff
Suzanna Altman, Director of Education & Community Engagement
Philip Blackburn,* innova Director & Director of Artist Services
Tanner Britton, innova Assistant
Chris Campbell,* Operations Director, innova Recordings
Craig Carnahan,* Vice President of Programs
Paul Hanson, Vice President of Finance & Administration
Laura Krier, Program & Social Media Manager
Bonnie Marshall, Vice President of Development
Steve McPherson, innova Publicist
Jessica Mehlhoff, Development & Communications Manager
John Michel, Membership Director & Composers Datebook Producer
John Nuechterlein, President & CEO
Jay Walters, Membership Services Representative

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Minnesota Chapter
Craig Carnahan,* Vice President of Programs
Philadelphia Chapter
Adam Lesnick, Executive Director
James Falconi,* Program Manager

522 Landmark Center
75 West 5th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1439
t 651.228.1407
f 651.291.7978

CONNECT WITH US:
www.composersforum.org
mail@composersforum.org
ComposersForum on:

Upon request, this report can be made available in an alternative format.

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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Steven Ovitsky
David Ranheim
Eugene Rogers
James Stephenson*
Tom Voegeli
James Wafler

*Composer