PROGRAMS YEAR IN REVIEW

- Awarded more than $409,000 in grants to a diverse group of composers and performers of new music
- In partnership with wild Up, produced the fourth annual ACF National Composition Contest, which encourages creativity by graduate and undergraduate student composers. The winners of this year’s competition were William Gardiner (Yale University), Alex Temple (Northwestern University) and Nina C. Young (Columbia University)
- Welcomed the return of the Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute, under the new leadership of Kevin Puts
- Partnered with electro-acoustic pianist Keith Kirchoff to present the second annual ACF Showcase Concert, featuring music by five composers chosen from a national call for scores
- Launched Faith Partners residency projects in Mankato, MN, and La Crosse, WI, and continued residency in Owatonna, MN
- Launched Landmark to Lowertown (L2L), a mid-day concert series in unique venues located in downtown Saint Paul

EDUCATION YEAR IN REVIEW

- Awarded six young composers with mentorship, professional performances and scholarships through the inaugural NextNotes High School Composition Awards™
- Provided valuable composer panelist feedback to 26 NextNotes Honorable Mention recipients and free ACF student memberships to 139 NextNotes applicants
- Reached over 1,461,000 children to date through the BandQuest® and ChoralQuest® series
- The 7th & 8th grade band at Linden Avenue Middle School in Red Hook, NY, premiered the 22nd BandQuest® piece, Eye of the Hawk, by composer Susan Botti
- The treble choir at Frontier Trail Middle School in Olathe, KS, premiered the sixth piece in the ChoralQuest® series, Thinking of My Home, by Chen Yi
ACF National Composition Contest
William Gardiner (New Haven, CT)
Alex Temple (Chicago, IL)
Nina C. Young (New York, NY)

ACF Showcase
Ashkan Behzadi (New York, NY)
Joshua Clausen (Minneapolis, MN)
Ian Dicke (Claremont, CA)
Liviu Marinescu (Studio City, CA)
Scott Miller (Maple Grove, MN)

BandQuest®
Susan Botti (Red Hook, NY)

Champions of New Music Awards
American Composers Orchestra
(New York, NY)
Claire Chase (Brooklyn, NY)
Michael Morgan (Oakland, CA)

ChoralQuest®
Chen Yi (Kansas City, MO)

Faith Partners
George Maurer (Minneapolis, MN)
A. Eric Heukeshoven (Winona, MN)

Landmark to Lowertown
J.T. Bates (Minneapolis, MN)
Nona Marie Invie (Minneapolis, MN)
Orkestaa Bezt Ime (Minneapolis, MN)
Dauv Seru (Saint Paul, MN)

Healing and Hope Through Song
Brian Laidlaw (Saint Paul, MN)
Paul Rudoi (Minneapolis, MN)

Jazz Noir Radio Program
Chris Bates (New Hope, MN)
Christina Ham (Minneapolis, MN)
Steven Hobert (Minneapolis, MN)
Dominic Orlando (Minneapolis, MN)
Solomon Parham (Saint Paul, MN)
Josh Wilder (Philadelphia, PA)

Jerome Fund for New Music (JFund)
Zack Baltich (Minneapolis, MN)
Justine F. Chen (New York, NY)
Jeff Fairbanks (Sunnyside, NY)
Anne Goldberg (New York, NY)
Molly Joyce (New York, NY)
Paul Kerekes (New York, NY)
Levy Lorenzo (Brooklyn, NY)
Jessica Meyer (Bronx, NY)
Kari Musil (Saint Paul, MN)
Natalie Nowytski (Minneapolis, MN)
Max Vernon (Brooklyn, NY)
Tamara Yadao (Brooklyn, NY)

McKnight Composer Fellowships
Abbie Betinis (Saint Paul, MN)
David King (Golden Valley, MN)
Reinaldo Moya (Northfield, MN)
Peter O’Gorman (White Bear Lake, MN)

McKnight Visiting Composer Residencies
Clarice Assad (New York, NY)
Wayne Horvitz (Seattle, WA)

Minnesota Emerging Composer Awards (MECA)
Mike Hodnick (Chaska, MN)
Yohannes Tona (Fridley, MN)
Aby Wolf (Minneapolis, MN)

Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute
Kati Agócs (Boston, MA)
Eugene Birman (New York, NY)
Texu Kim (Bloomington, IN)
Loren Loiacono (Ithaca, NY)
Evan Meier (College Park, MD)
Matthew Peterson (Stockholm, Sweden)
Michael Schachter (Ann Arbor, MI)

Minnesota Varsity
John Kurtz (Eagan, MN)
Louisa Byron (Waseca, MN)

NextNotes™
Aiyana Tedi Braun (Ardmore, PA)
Evan Caplinger (San Diego, CA)
Quinn Mason (Dallas, TX)
April Lasken (Hampshire, IL)
Katya Richardson (Irvine, CA)
Ian Underhill-Cady (Minneapolis, MN)

Welcome Christmas
Justin Merritt (Northfield, MN)
Rachel DeVore Fogarty (Long Island City, NY)

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

AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM REMEMBERS

STEPHEN PAULUS
1949-2014

Stephen Paulus, co-founder of the American Composers Forum, died on October 19, 2014 from complications of a stroke. A prolific composer of over 500 works, he enjoyed writing for a variety of audiences and performers. He was an ardent advocate and mentor to many young composers, co-founding the American Composers Forum in 1973. He gave generously, and there are hundreds of colleagues and students who are grateful for all he did to support them and nurture their careers.

Advice to future NextNotes™ applicants:
“Seize the opportunity to apply for this, because this is once in a lifetime opportunity. You’ll gain valuable advice and experience that’ll be useful to your musical career when you get older.”

Quinn Mason (TX), inaugural NextNotes™ winner
The inaugural NextNotes Workshop and Concert took place June 25-28, 2015 at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Over two and a half days, the six winners, Aiyana Braun (PA), Evan Caplinger (CA), Quinn Mason (TX), April Lasken (IL), Katya Richardson (CA) and Ian Underhill-Cady (MN), worked with composer mentors, Joshua Clausen, Joe Horton and Libby Larsen (all of MN).

The musical diversity represented in both the winners and mentors helped set NextNotes apart from other composition programs. For many of our participants, it was their first opportunity to connect with other composers of their age and interest level without any restraint of the type of music each creates.

Mentors provided feedback on mentee compositions, assisted with the rehearsal process, and led conversations about composition and how they each approach life as a professional composer.

While the workshop period was not long, the NextNotes winners took full advantage of the opportunity: listening, learning, bonding and growing. Each expressed great appreciation for the program and a strong desire to come back to Minnesota in five years to reunite and meet the 5th cohort of NextNotes winners.

The workshop culminated in a concert and award ceremony at Macalester College’s Mairs Concert Hall. Video of the concert can be viewed on ACF’s Youtube channel, www.youtube.com/composersforum.

The NextNotes™ High School Composition Awards are a new national program designed to nurture the next generation of creative voices in music composition regardless of musical style. Awards encourage and recognize the creative and talented composers with mentorship, scholarship funds and a performance of their work by professional musicians.

NextNotes winners meet with jazz artist Esperanza Spalding after her concert on June 27, 2015.

Sally Awards
ACF was a proud recipient of a Sally Ordway Irvine Award on June 22, 2015. The Sally Awards recognize the accomplishments of volunteers, artists and educators who contribute to and strengthen the arts and arts education throughout the state of Minnesota.

Champion of New Music Awards
A particular highlight of the year was the Champion of New Music Awards. Each of the following awardees deserves high praise and recognition for their extraordinary support of living composers and their work.

Michael Morgan
Music Director and Conductor, Oakland East Bay Symphony
Award presented during a symphony concert at Paramount Theatre, Oakland, California, on February 20, 2015

Claire Chase
Flutist and Executive Director of International Contemporary Ensemble
Award presented during a 15th anniversary celebration in Brooklyn on April 21, 2015

American Composers Orchestra, New York
Award presented during the Underwood Reading Sessions on May 7, 2015
INNOVA RECORDINGS ■ Released 26 titles (total catalog now 528) that contribute to the musical ecosystem in vibrant ways. From jazz to world to new classical, innova continued to distribute vital projects that champion high quality new work ■ Strengthened relationships with key distributors, retail and media partners. ■ Frequent placement on iTunes homepage has been a significant achievement in the past twelve months ■ Launched successful album campaigns for artists resulting in high visibility market placement (Apple Music, playlist features on Spotify and emusic) ■ Coverage in respected media outlets has increased (New York Times, Q2, Songlines, Classical MPR) ■ Launched “Manufacture on Demand” deal with Naxos of America to minimize cost for artists and ensure titles stay in print

“...a label that documents all the thrilling stuff happening at the fringes of the American contemporary scene.”
Jayson Greene, Wondering Sound

FY2015 RELEASES

Paul Elwood: Nice Folks
PRISM: Heritage/Evolution, Volume 1
Clocked Out: Time Crystals
Dan Roman: Musica de Palladium
Tim Patterson: Like Style, Dig? Percussion music of John Bergamo
Steven M. Miller: Between Noise and Silence
Gao Hong and Friends: Pipa Potluck
Michael Hersch: Last Autumn
Network for New Music/The Crossing: Hesperus is Phosphorus by Lewis Spratlan
Jeremy Gill: Capriccio
Lisa Bielawa: The Lay of the Love
Jeffrey Zeigler: Something of Life
Aaron Helgeson: Poems of Sheer Nothingness
Mihailo Trandafilovski: FIVE
Mike Olson: Six Projects
Jennie Oh Brown: Looking Back: Flute Music of Joseph Schwantner
Jenny Olivia Johnson: DOn’t Look Back
Mamak Khadem: The Road
Jane Antonia Cornish: Continuum
John Fitz Rogers: Magna Mysteria
Karen Gottlieb: Music for Harp
Mark Applebaum: 30
Paula Matthusen: Pieces for People
2015 Annual Fund & Project Support

Government, Foundation and Corporate Support

$100,000+
- Bush Foundation
- Jerome Foundation
- John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- The McKnight Foundation
- Minnesota State Arts Board

$25,000-$49,999
- Augustine Foundation
- Otto Bremer Foundation

$10,000-$24,999
- Athwín Foundation
- Aaron Copland Fund for Music
- Dr. Fred Noah Gordon Charitable Fund
- HRK Foundation
- National Endowment for the Arts
- O’Shaughnessy Foundation
- Rosemary H. & David F. Good Family Foundation
- Wenger Foundation

$5,000-$9,999
- General Mills Foundation
- St. Paul Cultural STAR City of Saint Paul

$1,000-$4,999
- The Allegro Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation
- Amphibition Foundation
- ASCAP
- BMT Foundation
- Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation
- Ted & Roberta Mann Foundation
- The Nash Foundation
- RBC Foundation
- Margaret Rivers Fund
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Minnesota

Employee Matching Gifts
- AmazonSmile Foundation
- Ameriprise Foundation
- Ecobak Foundation
- Medtronic, Inc.
- Travelers

Gifts from Individuals

- *Includes project support
- Government, Corporate & Foundation Support
- HRK Foundation
- Katherine B. Anderson Fund
- Sewell Family Foundation
- CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
- Mairs & Power
- Mutual of America Travelers

Individual Support
- Carol Barnett
- Karen Brooks
- David & Ann Buran
- Richard Cisek
- Kay Fredericks
- Dee Ann & Kent Crossley
- Carol Heen
- Dolores Johnson
- Barry & Cheryl Kembel
- Michael & Kay McCarthy
- Hella Mears Hueg
- Daniel G. Crozier, Jr.
- T.G. Febonio
- Karen Foote
- Bob Peskin
- Binyang Li
- Gordon E. Marsh
- Daniel Morgenstern
- Cecily Morse
- Lawrence Moss
- John Munholand
- Peter & Karla Myers
- Lucia Newell
- Alice Parker
- Bob Pezinsk
- Stellas Quaday, in memory of Marie Pauline Anderson
- Erin Rogers
- Nancy & Pat Ryan, in memory of Marie Pauline Anderson
- Robert Sieving
- Wyns Surf
- Steve Tilbrett
- Sargey Volkov
- Donald C. Willeke
- James Willey

40th Anniversary Donors

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- Wyns Surf
- Steve Tilbrett
- Sargey Volkov
- Donald C. Willeke
- James Willey
CHAPTER ACTIVITY

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER ■ Sponsored a composition competition for the 2015 Southern California Viola Society’s ViolaFest at the Colburn School ■ Presented two workshops with Philip Blackburn of innova, and sponsored a presentation by Dutch composing duo Jeroen Stijbos and Rob van Rijswijk at the LA Composers Salon ■ The Making Music education program continued with a 12-week high school composition course at Marshall Academy in Pasadena. Ten participants wrote pieces for performance by a professional string quartet

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER ■ Awarded $27,000 for four Community Partners grantees ■ Collaborated with City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program on “If You Could Hear These Walls” ■ 1 concert of music by Philadelphia’s women composers ■ 1 workshop on the music of Ornette Coleman

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Income
Foundation Grants $860,144
Government Grants 122,659
Individual Contributions 173,972
Corporation Grants 12,705
Membership 91,815
Endowment Earnings 240,915
Earned Income 215,046
Total Operations Income $1,717,256

Expense
Commissioning and Residency $447,796
Readings and Performances 68,898
Education 172,031
Media 291,855
Chapters 147,143
Member Services 115,106
Administration 210,573
Development 216,252
Total Operations Expense $1,669,654

Programs
In 2015, the American Composers Forum marked 40 years of bringing new music to life. From its early days on the campus of the University of Minnesota through today, ACF has a rich history of granting programs, readings, salons and residencies that support the creation of new work and connect composers to communities. Throughout the year, ACF celebrated its past, present, and looked forward into the future.

The celebration culminated on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the Landmark Center with 400 guests including composers, performers, donors/funders, partnering organizations and listeners. The evening featured over 100 performers, including Minnesota Boychoir, VocalEssence, University of Minnesota Brass Quintet, Orange Mighty Trio and Jelloslave.

The St. Paul event acted as headquarters for our National Composer Night Out program—a multi-faceted event in communities across the country that links to a celebration at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. ACF built this unique platform to strengthen its national profile and with communities across the United States (and China!). Communities chose to participate and celebrate in their own unique way – from house performances to a Scotch tasting – by honoring those who make music. Each location connected both in spirit and through the social media using the hashtag #ACF40. ACF reached over a million people through these social media efforts.
The tweetwall itself had an absolute reach of 1,130,803 people.

Facebook and Twitter combined: May 14-15 alone, reach was 16,000, and we increased our likes/followers by 1,800.
ACF social media stats:

Follower % increase (not including innova):

+30%

6,446 up from 4,013

+60%

234 up from 154

+52%

214 up from 170

+26%

11,755 up from 10,028

+17%
Number of new works created by grants & programs in 2015: 103

Number of people who experienced ACF’s work in 2015: 899,543

Number of works commissioned through Faith Partners program: 372
One of last year’s most popular Fill-in-the-Blank Friday posts: ‘When I get stuck in my writing, __________ always gets me back on track’.
innova social media stats:

Facebook:
3,297 up from 3,149:
4.7% increase

YouTube:
233 up from 170:
37% increase

Twitter:
2,422 up from 1,600:
51% increase
Membership

1,990 members
at end of FY15 in all 50 states
and DC plus 15 countries

16 school group memberships, with
4 new schools added in FY 2015:

Harding University Department of Music (Searcy, AR)
Manhattan School of Music
Roosevelt University
Chicago College of Performing Arts
University of the Arts – Philadelphia
• $12.5 million granted to composers & performers

• $960,000 in innova recording sales

• 1,325,000 students reached by 28 pieces through BandQuest® and ChoralQuest®

• 132 McKnight Artist Fellowships & 41 visiting composing residencies

• 357 new works commissioned by Jerome Fund for New Music