The quality of the mentors way exceeded my expectations, and it was a much deeper and inspiring experience than I expected it to be.

– Josh Hernandez-Camen, 2016 NextNotes winner

The American Composers Forum is a fiscal year 2017 recipient of an Operating Support grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. 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.
The career of an artist is full of struggle, rejection, and doubt, and to receive this kind of validation is truly wonderful and invaluable. It has sparked the fire in me to continue to get "out there" and seek new, exciting opportunities. This confidence also gives me the resolve to continue to probe deeper into myself and make work that’s ever more personal.

- Reinaldo Moya, 2015 McKnight Composer Fellow

**Year in Review**

**Programs**
- Awarded more than $313,500 in grants to a diverse group of composers and performers of new music.
- In partnership with Sybarite5, produced the fifth annual ACF National Composition Contest, which encourages creativity by composers throughout the United States and to recognize and reward their accomplishments.
- Applications to the Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute increased by 34%.
- Partnered with the dream songs project to present the third annual ACF Showcase Concert, featuring music by three composers chosen from a national call for scores.
- Launched Faith Partners residency projects in Rochester, MN, and Baxter/Brainerd, MN, and continued residencies in La Crosse, WI, and Mankato, MN.
- More than 230 people attended Landmark to Lowertown, a midday concert series in public spaces located in downtown Saint Paul.
- Served more than 2,000 members in all 50 states; Washington, DC; Puerto Rico; and 17 other countries.

**Education**
- Awarded six young composers with mentorship, professional performances, and scholarships through the second NextNotes High School Composition Awards®.
- Provided valuable composer panelist feedback to 28 NextNotes Honorable Mention recipients and free ACF student memberships to 121 NextNotes applicants.
- Reached over 1,461,000 children to date through the BandQuest® and ChoralQuest® series.
- The middle school band at McCracken Middle School in Skokie, IL, premiered the 23rd BandQuest® piece, Deep Dish by composer James M. Stephenson.
- The choir at Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Philadelphia, PA, premiered the seventh piece in the ChoralQuest® series, Never Give Up! by Rollo Dilworth.
- Promoted BandQuest and ChoralQuest series at Midwest Band Clinic, reaching an audience of 17,000 music educators.
Receiving the Minnesota Emerging Composer Award inspired Malamanya to study music with local experts and create new music in our genre and share with the greater community.

- Jesse Marks, timbale player, Malamanya

2016 fy
Awardees & Commissions

- ACF National Composition Contest
  Clarice Assad (New York, NY)
  Brandon Ridonou (New York, NY)
  Steven Snowden (Austin, TX)

- ACF Showcase
  Jonathan Blumhofer (Worcester, MA)
  Federico Garcia-De Castro (Pittsburgh, PA)
  Dale Trumbore (Los Angeles, CA)

- BandQuest
  James M. Stephenson (Lake Forest, IL)

- Champion of New Music Awards
  Alex Ross (New York, NY)
  Robert Spano (New York, NY)
  Nico Muhly (New York, NY)

- ChoralQuest
  Rollo Dilworth (Philadelphia, PA)

- Dale Warland Singers Commission Award
  Cantus with Gabriel Kahane

- Faith Partners
  Gary Ruschman (Minneapolis, MN)
  Victor Zupanc (Minneapolis, MN)

- Healing and Hope Through Song
  George Maurer (Minneapolis, MN)

- Jerome Fund for New Music (JFund)
  James G. Everest (Saint Paul, MN)
  Saad Haddad (New York, NY)
  Sean Harold (New York, NY)
  Clara Hunter Latham (Brooklyn, NY)
  Perry Le Bœuf (Brooklyn, NY)
  Shih-Wei Lo (New York, NY)
  Yue Lor (Brooklyn, NY)
  Sky Macklay (New York, NY)
  Tiffany Skidmore (Saint Paul, MN)
  Anthony Vine (Brooklyn, NY)

- Landmark to Lowertown
  Aby Wolf
  John Keston and Graham O’Brien
  Peter Hennig
  Malamanya

- McKnight Composer Fellowships
  Asako Hirasawa (Falton Heights, MN)
  Sergey Kvochonchkina (Hann Lake, MN)
  David Means (Minneapolis, MN)
  Joko Sutriso (Saint Paul, MN)

- McKnight Visiting Composer Residencies
  Wang Jie (New York, NY)
  Peter Michael von der Nahmer (Cape Park, NY)

- Minnesota Emerging Composer Awards (MECA)
  Ariella Forsten (Minneapolis, MN)
  Troy Rogers (Duluth, MN)
  Dameun Maurice Strange (Saint Paul, MN)

- Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute
  Kirsten Broberg (Denton, TX)
  Matthew Browne (Ann Arbor, MI)
  Joshua Cederén (New York, NY)
  Emily Cooley (Philadelphia, PA)
  Nicholas DiBerardino (Milford, CT)
  Michael Gilbertson (Hamden, CT)
  Anthony Vine (Brooklyn, NY)

- MN Varsity Showcase Composers
  Austin Kraft (Savage, MN)
  Seamus Hubbard Flynn (St. Paul, MN)

- NextNotes Composers
  Michael Cabrerra (Auburndale, FL)
  Angel Jochi (Philadelphia, PA)
  Lucy McKnight (Los Angeles, CA)
  Molly Monahan (Holland, MI)
  J.P. Redmond (Yorkers, NY)
  Karalyn Schubring (Gilbert, AZ)

- NextNotes Teacher Recognition
  Anderson Alden (private instructor), teacher of Lucy McKnight
  Luke Carlson (private instructor), teacher of Lucy McKnight
  Andrew Eason-McGill (Orchestra Director at Auburndale Senior High School), teacher of Michael Cabrerra
  Matt Van Brink (Composition Faculty at Concordia Conservatory), teacher of J.P. Redmond
  Cynthia Van Maanen (Instructor of Music Composition and Music Theory at Interlochen Arts Academy), teacher of Molly Monahan
  Tomoko Yonemaru (Instructor at East Valley Yamaha Music School), teacher of Karalyn Schubring

- Welcome Christmas
  Josh Bauder (Crystal, MN)
  Laura Caviari (Minneapolis, MN)
Through the process of composition I’m able to get in touch with certain elements of music that fascinate me. With each new piece that I write and perform, I feel that I’m able to get closer to what captivates me. Performing my pieces in front of an audience with a group has been an integral step in my development as a musician and a composer. ACF made it possible for me to take this step by inviting me to play at the Landmark to Lowertown concert series.

- Pete Hennig, MECA awardee
ACF Social Media Stats:

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Number of new works created in FY2016: 53

Cuba Delegation

In November 2015, American Composers Forum participated in the 28th Havana Contemporary Music Festival. With ten composers, the six-member ensemble Third Sound, and a contingent of friends and patrons, ACF spent a week in Havana, exploring the city and soaking in the music of the festival.

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

University of MN School of Music (Minneapolis, MN)
Woodrow Wilson Middle School (Philadelphia, PA)
McCracken Middle School (Skokie, IL)
Minnesota Public Radio (St. Paul, MN)
and Music Makes Us Whole

Landmark Center (St. Paul, MN)
Minnesota Music Coalition (St. Paul, MN)
Studio Z (St. Paul, MN)
Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (St. Paul, MN)

Financial Overview

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PROGRAMS

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