Do you make music? (The original, fresh, and not-necessarily-commercially-driven kind?)
Have an ambitious project in mind?
Would up to $8,500 help?
Do you live in MN or NYC?
Read on…

More info: http://composersforum.org/program/jfund

The American Composers Forum (ACF) champions composers and other creative musicians, and boosts their careers with professional opportunities. Our Jerome Fund for New Music (JFund) supports the creation, presentation, and subsequent life of a new work. About 10 grants are available: up to $7,000 for the composer or primary artist’s time to create the work, and up to $1,500 to help make it happen and further its potential.

JFund welcomes applicants from the whole range of musical paths and is committed to supporting a diverse pool of artists.

The American Composers Forum encourages applicants from the full range of musical styles, and is committed to supporting a diverse pool of artists whose work demonstrates strong artistic merit. Accordingly, awards for our programs will represent, as far as possible, artists and projects that are diverse in genre, gender, race, ethnicity and geography.

The primary artist (not limited to those who self-identify as a “composer” but eligible to all kinds of artists who create original music such as improvisers) applies with a third party (such as a performing group or a presenter who commits to producing the finished work). The primary artist needs to be at an “emerging” level in her/his career: neither a student (except in certain circumstances) nor an established professional. The proposed project should be a significant artistic and professional leap: a risky but logical next step that will mark a new level of accomplishment. The Jerome Foundation’s definition of an emerging artist can be found here: https://www.jeromefdn.org/apply/composer-soundartist/definition-emerging-artist.

Awards – judged by a panel of artists – are competitive and based on outstanding quality of work, personal musical voice, and exceptional potential to make a career difference. Since its founding in 1979 the program, funded by the Jerome Foundation, has made hundreds of awards and helped launch many careers.

DEADLINE
Monday, August 21, 2017 4:30 PM (Central)
ELIGIBILITY
• Open to emerging artists who are just starting out in their career, under-recognized, with no national reputation, few professional accolades, and no more than a handful of paid commissions.
• Primary artist (creator of original music) must reside in Minnesota or the five boroughs of New York City at the time of application. Project partners may be based anywhere in the world.
• Applicants (primary or partners) may only be a part of one application.
• Previous winners of JFund (formerly JCCP) awards may apply as long as they were more than two years ago and final reports have been submitted.
• The composer applicant can’t be a current recipient of a Jerome Foundation Composer/Sound Artist Fellowship. A composer or sound artist may not receive a fellowship and other Jerome Foundation support for the same work(s).
• Students may apply if their samples and proposal are beyond the scope of accredited course work.
• Projects may take place in a worship setting but not be premiered during a religious service.
• JFund administrative staff members are ineligible.
• ACF membership is not required for JFund applicants, but is strongly encouraged in order to keep informed about future opportunities.
• Proposed works should be at an early stage in their development, and must not be finished by the time of application. Works must be scheduled to premiere after December 31, 2017. Supported projects must be completed within five years of the award date.

SELECTION CRITERIA
• Quality of musical materials, showing singular artistic voice and vision.
• Significance of the project to the primary artist’s career.
• Well articulated compositional planning and overall thoroughness of project.
• Level of commitment by project partners to performing, presenting and furthering the work.
• Relevance of the Enhancement Funds to deepen the work and further the artist’s career.
• The final pool will reflect a range of artists and projects, diverse in genre, gender, and racial origin.

AWARD REQUESTS
Primary artists request funds to cover their compositional time: a commission fee. The size of this fee is proportional to the scope of the work and may reflect the duration of the work and the number of participants. Panelists may change the amount of the award up or down based on comparable projects. ACF does not provide a standard fee schedule.

ENHANCEMENT FUNDS
In addition to the commission fee, artists may request up to $1,500 for out of pocket expenses that will magnify the impact of the work and advance the artist’s career. These funds may be used before, during, or after the premiere. Scenarios might include: research, travel, consultation, preparation fees, equipment or software costs, rehearsals, workshops, space rental, collaboration costs, outreach events, touring, publication, recording or promotion costs.

The Project Partner is someone other than you; typically a performer or ensemble. If you perform in your own work then the Project Partner needs to be a presenter or someone who will be producing the performance. This Partner provides a Commitment Letter indicating enthusiasm to perform, present, and promote the proposed work. Describe plans for the
premiere and any additional activities that increase the visibility of the work and the artist. The Project Partner can only be a part of one application and can’t partner with multiple Primary Artists (composers). **Make sure your Project Partner has not agreed to be a part of another 2017 Jerome Fund for New Music application and is not part of an awarded Jfund project in the last two years.** If multiple Primary Artists (composers) list the same Project Partner, the first commitment letter received/submitted with the completed application will be accepted and all other subsequent applicants will be asked to find another Project Partner.

**HOW TO APPLY**
The *primary artist* (creator of original music) completes or uploads the following in the Online Application Form:

1. **Primary Artist’s Personal Information** (Questions 1 – 13):
   a. Name, Address, Phone, Email Address, Website Link, Demographic Information

2. **Web Links to Two Musical Work Samples** (Questions 14 – 28): Provide web links to your musical work samples (SoundCloud, YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive, iCloud, etc.). Make sure the web links you provide in this application remain active until December 31, 2017. If you do not wish for your work samples to be public please make them unlisted so the committee will still have access.
   
   i. Work Sample 1 makes the most critical impression on the panelists, and should represent your most distinctive and compelling musical example. Panelists will listen to four minutes of this work in the first round. If you wish them to start at a cue point other than the beginning, please indicate the start time for the cue in Question 15 Works Sample 1 - Cue Start Time.
   
   ii. Work Sample 2 should be a complementary complete work.

   Together the work samples should demonstrate the relevance of – and the artist’s ability to carry out – the proposed new work. (30 minutes max for both complete works) For each work sample you will be asked to provide the Title, Duration, Year of Completion, Ensemble/Performers’ Name(s) (Character Limit: 1,000), Instrumentation (Character Limit: 600), Brief Description of the Work (Character Limit: 750).

3. **Additional Musical Materials** (Questions 29 – 32): Such as scores, charts, or information that give context for listening to these works. If your work involves improvisation, describe the role you played in creating the piece. You have the option of uploading two PDFs (up to 10MB each) or providing a web link to your additional materials. Panelist will not have access to music notation, electronic music, graphic, video, or other specialized software.

4. **Primary Artist’s Personal Statement** (Question 33): A personal statement articulating the development and direction of your music, aesthetic position, and the significance of this project to you at this time. State why you consider yourself “emerging”. You will type directly into the application, or copy and paste it from another word processing document. (Character Limit: 3,500)

5. Upload an **Artist Resume** or current bio (Question 34): (two pages max – PDF only – up to 10MB).
5. **Project Partner Information** (Questions 35 – 44):
   a. Name/organization, Address, Phone Number, Email, Website

6. Upload the **Project Partner Commitment Letter** (Question 45): Make sure your Project Partner has not agreed to be a part of another 2017 Jerome Fund for New Music application and is not part of an awarded JFund project in the last two years. It is highly recommended that you upload the Commitment Letter as part of your online application. If needed, the Project Partner can email the commitment letter directly to Billy Lackey, VP of Programs (wlackey@composersforum.org). If emailed, in the subject line use the following format: Composer’s First and Last Name – JFund Commitment Letter. The letter must be received by 4:30 PM (Central) Monday, August 21, 2017. If multiple Primary Artists (composers) list the same Project Partner, the first commitment letter received/submitted with the completed application will be accepted and all other subsequent applicants will be asked to find another Project Partner.

7. **Proposed Work Information** (Questions 46 – 48):
   a. Title, Duration, and Number of Performers

8. **A Description of the Proposed Work** (Question 49): (Character Limit: 3,500)

9. **Requested Commission Fee** (Question 50): Up to $7,000.00 maximum request.

10. A description of how you would use the **Enhancement Funds** (Question 51): Itemize the activities, their purpose, approximate costs, and give a timeline. (Character Limit: 4,000)

11. **Requested Enhancement Amount** (Question 52): Up to $1,500.00 maximum request.

12. **Electronic Signature** (Question 53): I have carefully reviewed the 2017 Jerome Fund for New Music (JFund) guidelines and it contains all of the necessary information. I understand that my application must be completed by the online application deadline of Monday, August 21, 2017 4:30 PM (Central). The American Composers Forum / Jerome Fund for New Music (JFund) program take no responsibility for applications that are not in Submitted status at the deadline. I certify that the statements in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If I am selected for the 2017 JFund program offered by the American Composers Forum, I agree to abide by the policies of the Jerome Fund for New Music (JFund) program.

**SELECTION PROCESS**
ACF staff reviews all applications for eligibility and completeness. A diverse panel of artists familiar with a range of contemporary music will have access to all materials submitted. Each applicant’s complete recordings are listened to by at least one panelist. Panelists convene in St. Paul to make final determinations. Panelists remain anonymous until after the results are announced in late November.

**RESOURCES FOR UNLISTED LINKS:**
SoundCloud:
http://shareandembed.help.soundcloud.com/customer/portal/articles/2167144-sharing-a-private-track-or-playlist-within-soundcloud

YouTube:
https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/157177?hl=en

Google Drive:
https://support.google.com/drive/answer/2494822?hl=en
QUESTIONS
The American Composers Forum encourages applicants to contact ACF staff to ask questions and discuss potential applications. For questions regarding the Jerome Fund for New Music contact, Billy Lackey, VP of Programs at (651) 251-2833 or wlackey@composersforum.org

More on the history of JFund is at: http://composersforum.org/program/jfund