



# 2018 McKnight Fellowships for Composers



## GUIDELINE INFORMATION

The American Composers Forum is pleased to announce the 2018 McKnight Fellowships for Composers. This program is made possible by the generous support of The McKnight Foundation.

The McKnight Foundation's Arts program is one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the country. Established in 1981, the McKnight Artist Fellowships provide annual, unrestricted cash awards to outstanding mid-career Minnesota artists in ten areas. Eight arts organizations oversee the administration of the fellowships and structure their own program to respond to the unique challenges of different creative disciplines: ceramic arts, choreography, dance, media arts, music performance, playwriting and theater arts, visual arts, and writers; administered respectively by the Northern Clay Center, The Cowles Center, FILMN<sup>o</sup>RTH, MacPhail Center for Music, The Playwrights' Center, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and The Loft Literary Center.

**ONLINE APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, March 12, 2018 (11:59 PM Central)**

### **PURPOSE**

The intent of this program is to enrich and strengthen the state of Minnesota by acknowledging the accomplishments of composers and supporting for their artistic growth.

### **CRITERIA**

The McKnight Fellowships provide recognition and financial support for mid-career composers working in any musical genre. The program is designed to award composers whose work is of exceptional artistic merit, who have created a substantial body of work over a period of time, and who are at a career stage that is beyond emerging.

## **AWARDS**

- Four fellowships of \$25,000 in unrestricted funds will be awarded. Awards are subject to state and federal income tax guidelines.
- Fellows also have an opportunity to work for one month in one of five artist residency communities partnering with the American Composers Forum OR fellows can create a self-designed professional development project in lieu of participating in one of the five artist residency communities. Each project or residency will be planned in consultation with ACF's Vice President of Programs. ACF will allot planning for this residency occurs during the fellowship year, and Fellows have up to two years to implement the plan. The budget for the residency or self-designed professional development project is up to \$2,500 and up to \$500 in travel. These funds do not go directly to the artist but to the residency program.
- Between 2019 – 2020 ACF will produce the first McKnight Composer Fellows Biennial Festival. The biennial festival will be an intensive full day event designed to connect Fellows more directly with audiences, collaborating artists, and McKnight Fellows from other disciplines. ACF will present a curated event for the cohort of the 2018 and 2019 McKnight Composer Fellows on a single stage over the course of an entire day. The 2018 and 2019 Composer Fellows will have an opportunity to feature their music and share their artistic stories in one of the two separate salon-style concerts during the one-day event. Each of the 2018 & 2019 McKnight Composer Fellows will be given a budget up to \$2,000 to hire musicians and/or defray cost for the presentation of their work. These funds do not go directly to the Fellows but to the hired artists or production cost specifically for the Fellow's programmed work. ACF's Vice President of Programs in consultation with the 2018 & 2019 Composer Fellows will hire all musicians and coordinate the production of the one-day McKnight Composer Fellows Biennial Festival.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- The intent of this program is to award composers who live and work in Minnesota; have made a significant artistic contribution to this community and who will continue their artistic growth in Minnesota. Composers working in any style are encouraged to apply.
- Applicant must be 18 years of age or older and a resident of Minnesota, as determined by voting and/or payment of taxes in the state.
- Applicant must have been a legal and continuous resident of Minnesota for at least one year prior to the application deadline.
- Fellows must retain residency in Minnesota until the end of the 12-month fellowship period.
- Applicant must have completed all formal academic training. Applicants may not be enrolled either full-or part-time in a degree-granting institution at the time of the application deadline.
  - NOTE: Applicants who are ABD (All But Dissertation) are not eligible to apply.
- Composers may apply to only one of the McKnight fellowship programs in a given year. In addition, no composer may receive more than \$50,000 in McKnight support in any three-year period.
- Recipients of 2015, 2016 and 2017 McKnight fellowships *in any discipline* are not eligible.
- Fellowship staff from any McKnight Artist Fellowship programs are not eligible.
- Staff and board members of the American Composers Forum and immediate family are not eligible.

- Staff and board members of The McKnight Foundation are not eligible, as well as immediate family members of foundation arts program staff.
- Composers do not have to be members of the American Composers Forum to apply.
- If you previously received a McKnight fellowship, the selection panel will look for continued outstanding work since the last award. The panel may also look for continued growth. Your work samples should focus on the period of time since your last award.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

A panel of three composers from outside Minnesota selected for their familiarity with diverse genres of new music will review applications and select fellowship recipients. Applicants are evaluated and selected based on the quality of their work as evidenced in submitted material, most importantly work samples. Consideration is given to accomplishments to date as well as promise for continued development and the impact the fellowship will have on the artist.

The American Composers Forum staff who oversee the McKnight Fellowship program do not contribute to the decision-making process or the selection of the McKnight Composer Fellows. The role of the staff is to provide clarity for the review process and to ensure that the panel review and the discussions proceed in accordance with the program's guidelines.

### **Key Evaluation Criteria:**

#### **Artistic merit:**

- Originality/strong sense of the composer's unique voice
- Technical proficiency necessary to achieve the desired results
- Quality of work samples

#### **The applicant has clearly reached the mid-career stage (or beyond) as evidenced by:**

- Tangible body of work
- Performances, commissions, recordings, other honors/achievements
- Evidence of serious commitment to artistic practice over a period of time

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.

## **NOTIFICATION**

The panel's decision will be announced in late May, 2018. Results will be posted on ACF's website and applicants will be notified by email. After the 2018 McKnight Fellowships for Composers and Visiting Composer Residencies are announced, all applicants will have the opportunity to setup a phone appointment with the ACF vice president of programs for feedback from the panelists.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Complete the online application form, located here:

<https://composersforum.org/program/mcknight-composer-fellowship>

### **1. Composer's Personal Information (Questions 1 - 12):**

Name, Address, Phone, Email Address, Website

### **2. Artist's statement (Question 13) (Character Limit 3,500 with spaces)**

The artist statement may take any of several directions, at your discretion: information about your background, the development of your work, your interests as an artist or your aesthetic position, your future artistic direction, or any other information you would like to present to the panel.

**3. Insights into your artistic experiences (Question 14: Two-pages maximum – PDF only – up to 10MB)** This can be a biography, a list of 10 artistic experiences that have shaped you as a musician, or a resume. We would like this document to enhance your artistic statement and provide further insights into your creation of music. If you chose to list a set of 10 artistic experiences, please go deeper into details on two of the most important experiences out of the ten experiences.

**4. A complete works list (Question 15: PDF only – up to 10MB)** For each of your works include the title, year created, approximate duration of work, instrumentation, year of the premiere, performer or ensemble that premiered the work.

### **5. Three Musical Work Samples (Questions 16 – 42)**

Up to three audio/and or video work samples totaling no more than 30-minutes of your music composed. At least one of your work samples should be of a work you composed in the last three years. Keep in mind that work samples should support the criteria of the program. If you have previously received a McKnight Fellowship, concentrate your work samples on the period of time since your last award. For each sample you will have the ability to list cue start and end times so that you can provide a complete work but point the panelists to specific areas of a longer work that you would like for them to review.

Provide PDFs of three scores (up to 10MB each) and web links to the corresponding audio or video. If the PDF of your score is larger than 10 MB, a space will be given for you to provide a web link to the larger file. Written scores are required unless they are inappropriate to your compositional style. For improvised performance, please clearly describe the nature of your involvement as the composer in the creation of the piece in a document uploaded or hosted in the link provided.

Provide web links to your musical samples (SoundCloud, YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive, etc.). Make sure web links you provide in this application remain active and unchanged until June 30, 2018. 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 up to five-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 19 Work Sample 1 – Cue Start Time.
- ii. Work Samples 2 & 3 should be complementary complete works

For each work sample you will be asked to provide the Title, Duration, Year of Completion, Ensemble/Name(s) of Performer(s), Instrumentation. You may also give other pertinent information you feel would be helpful to the panel, such as how it fits into your body of work and why you chose to submit this particular sample (3000 characters with spaces).

### **6. Acknowledgement of Terms and Conditions (Questions 43)**

By applying, you attest:

- to the accuracy of the information supplied in the application
- application materials submitted is the applicants sole and original work
- understand the purpose and conditions of the McKnight Composer Fellowship program and to your acceptance to them should you be selected as a fellow
- you are eligible for the competition, and that you will notify the American Composers Forum's Vice President of Programs if you become ineligible prior to the conclusion of the competition.
- Providing false or misleading information on this application, or failing in any other way to comply with the rules will subject you to disqualification and forfeiture of the fellowship.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- Entries must be submitted electronically on or before 11:59 PM Central on Monday, March 12, 2018.
- Late applications will not be considered.
- Entries submitted by mail or means other than the provided online application process will not be eligible for consideration.

### **RESOURCES FOR UNLISTED LINKS:**

SoundCloud:

<http://shareandembed.help.soundcloud.com/customer/portal/articles/2167144-sharing-a-private-track-or-playlist-within-soundcloud>

Vimeo: <https://help.vimeo.com/hc/en-us/articles/224818307-Basic-membership>

YouTube:

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

Google Drive:

<https://support.google.com/drive/answer/2494822?hl=en>

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## **INFORMATION SESSIONS**

William Lackey, ACF VP of Programs, will conduct two 90-minute 2018 McKnight Composers Fellowship Application Workshops to go over the application process. These information sessions will be announced in November 2017. Both sessions will be held in the Landmark Center 75 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Saint Paul, MN 55104

A video recording of the meetings will be made available on Vimeo a day after each 2018 McKnight Composers Fellowship Application Workshops. Applicants are welcome to schedule one-on-one meeting, in person or over the phone, with William Lackey about their application before completing it online. To schedule a meeting, please call 651.251.2833 or e-mail [wlackey@composersforum.org](mailto:wlackey@composersforum.org)