



WITH ROOMFUL OF TEETH

Launched in 2017 with the celebrated Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble (PNME), the ACF CONNECT program was developed to partner with prominent, top-quality ensembles, offering better commission fees, more time to work with performers, and significant learning/networking opportunities with industry professionals. Consistent with our mission, the program will support meaningful, long-lasting connections between composers, performers, audiences, and the local community where the ensemble is based.

For the 2018/2019 ACF CONNECT program we are partnering with the GRAMMY-winning vocal project Roomful of Teeth, dedicated to reimagining the expressive potential of the human voice. The ensemble has been hailed as “rigorously venturesome and thrillingly inventive” by *The Nation* and “Fiercely beautiful and bravely, utterly exposed.” by *NPR*.

Three selected composers who will represent diverse periods of an artistic life will have an opportunity to work with the ensemble over 16 months, culminating in a performance at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) in August 2019 during Roomful of Teeth’s 10th anniversary celebration. Selected composers will meet with industry leaders, new music professionals, and network with other composers and performers to create even more opportunities.

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.

Three composers from the total applicant pool will be selected to participate in this highly engaging program. Each composer will receive a \$7,500 commission to write a piece for Roomful of Teeth which will be workshopped and performed by the ensemble in August 2019. Selected composers must be available in August 13 – 15, 2018 (August 12th & August 16th, 2018 are travel days) for introductory meetings to start working with Roomful of Teeth and August 2019 for workshops, rehearsals, and premiere performance.

COMPETITION DETAILS AND SCHEDULE:

- Entries must be submitted electronically via the link below on or before **11:59 pm (Central) on January 15, 2018.**
 - Entries submitted by mail or means other than electronically through SlideRoom will not be eligible for consideration.
- The names of the winning composers will be **announced by late April, 2018.**
- Each will receive a \$7,500 commission to write a work (final length to be discussed and determined with the Artistic Director of Roomful of Teeth), scored for the complete ensemble of voices.
 - **Score and parts will be due on or before March 15, 2019**
- Scores/parts created with music notation software are mandatory (no handwritten materials are acceptable);
- Pieces using graphic notation are acceptable.
- The Roomful of Teeth introduction workshop will be held August 13 – 15, 2018 (August 12th & August 16th, 2018 are travel days) and the public performance (which will be recorded for archival purposes), workshops with ACF and Roomful of Teeth, and rehearsals will take place in August, 2019. NOTE: participation in the workshop/performance is mandatory for the three composers in August 2018 & August 2019.

AWARDS:

- Each of the three composers will receive a commission in the amount of \$7,500 plus housing, domestic transportation, and meals while attending the August 13 – 15, 2018 introductory workshops and the workshops, rehearsals, and performance in August 2019.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

Who May Enter:

- 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.**
- Entries are invited **from composers of all ages and stages** in their artistic life.
- Travel will be provided to and from August 2018 & August 2019 ACF CONNECT events from within the USA. Selected composers from outside the US will be responsible for providing their own travel to the US.
- Employees and board members of the American Composers Forum may not enter the competition; and members of Roomful of Teeth are not eligible to enter.
- You do not have to be a member of the American Composers Forum to enter this contest. If chosen as a winner, a one-year's membership is expected.

- Composers selected for the 2017/2018 ACF CONNECT program are not eligible to apply for the 2018/2019 ACF CONNECT program.

HOW TO APPLY

There is no fee to enter the competition.

Complete the online application form, located here:

1. Composer's Personal Information (Questions 1 - 13):

Name, Address, Phone, Email Address, Website, Demographic Information

2. Artist's statement (Question 14): (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. Working with Roomful of Teeth (Question 15): (Character Limit 3,500 with spaces) A brief description of your interest in writing a piece for Roomful of Teeth.

4. Three Musical Work Samples (Questions 16 – 45):

Up to three audio/and or video work samples totaling no more than 30-minutes total of your music composed. At least one of your work samples should be a work sample that include the voice in some way to demonstrate your ability to write for the voice (Solo Voice, Voice and Ensemble, Choral, etc.). 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.

- 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 two-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 Works Sample 1 - Cue Start Time.
- ii. **Work Sample 2 & 3** should be a complementary works.

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.

Selection Process:

- Members of Roomful of Teeth will review submissions for the 2018/2019 ACF CONNECT program in consultation with ACF staff to determine the three selected composers.
- The winners will be announced in late April, 2018 via email to all applicants, and posted on the websites of the American Composers Forum and Roomful of Teeth.

Application Deadline, Award, and Information:

- Applications must be submitted electronically on or before 11:59 pm (Central) on January 15, 2018. Late applications will not be considered.
<https://americancomposersforum.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/40229>
- All performance, copyright, and royalty rights of the finalists' and the winning piece remain with the composers.

For more information and inquires contact:

William J. Lackey, DMA

Vice President of Programs

American Composers Forum

wlackey@composersforum.org

Office Phone: 651.251.2833