Apply for the 2018-19 In Common Residency

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM (ACF)?
ACF is a national non-profit arts organization located in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Over the course of four decades, ACF has nurtured the work of thousands of composers: programming now reaches composers and communities in all 50 states, and helps composers engage communities with music as a source of inspiration, self-reflection, and delight. Our goal is to make composers, and the music they create, a vibrant and integral part of our culture.

WHAT IS IN COMMON?
In Common is a new collaborative artist residency that gives communities the opportunity to explore and celebrate their unique diversity through the sharing of stories and the creation of new music. The composer’s residency in the community centers on creating music together and organizing events where people of all ages can gather to discover what they have in common. Each community hosts a yearlong project that is unique to their needs, and which brings diverse people together, including civic leaders, a faith congregation, service organizations, and artists.

The city of Willmar, MN has been chosen for the first collaboration, which begins in summer 2018. In recent years, the arrival in Minnesota of thousands of immigrants from East Africa has reshaped the Main Street of Willmar. Many have settled there, where they found work at the local Hormel-owned Jennie-O turkey processing plant. Today more than 20 businesses in and around Main Street are immigrant-owned. Along with the city’s more-established Latino community, the two groups now make up close to 25 percent of Willmar’s population, the majority of whom have Scandinavian and Northern European heritage. Despite religious and cultural differences, longtime Willmar residents and new immigrants are finding opportunities to build together a better future for all. This project aims to share some of those stories and celebrate this thriving, evolving community. Learn more about Willmar here.

Organizations hosting the project include the Unitarian Universalist Church of Willmar, The Willmar Community Center, and The West Central Singers. Funding is generously provided by the Otto Bremer Trust.

This residency will be an opportunity for a composer to develop and lead a community-wide songwriting project, rather than a standard commission project. Organizers in Willmar envision selecting a composer who will lead diverse residents through the process of creating their own original songs (edited 01.26.2018). The selected composer will receive $18,000, be reimbursed for up to $2000 of travel expenses, and will be required to spend at least 36 days in the community during the yearlong collaboration.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, March 5, 2018 (at 11:59 PM Central Time)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?
- Those who live within driving distance of Willmar, MN are eligible to apply.
- Composers of all musical styles, with and/or without written notation, are eligible to apply.
- You do not have to be member of the American Composers Forum to apply.
• Composers who have participated in an ACF residency in the past four years are not eligible to apply.
• Staff and board members of the American Composers Forum and immediate family are not eligible to apply.

IF I WANT TO APPLY, WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?
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.

Characteristics of composers who could be a good fit for this residency:
• You have experience teaching or guiding people to create their own music.
• You create melodic, memorable, original songs for & with people of various ages, cultures, and musical experience levels.
• You can demonstrate your experience with samples of your teaching and of your original music.
• You are familiar with music reflective of Willmar’s cultures.
• You are available to spend at least 36 days in Willmar, and to visit Willmar at regular (likely monthly) intervals during the yearlong project.
• Your travel to Willmar is no farther than 250 miles.

WHAT IS THE NOTIFICATION & SELECTION PROCESS?
• Every applicant will be contacted by email to let you know that we’ve received your application.
• In mid-April ACF will contact the 2-4 people who have been chosen as finalists, and interviews are planned for late April or early May.
• The panel’s decision will be announced in early June.
• Results will be posted on ACF’s website and applicants will be notified by email.
• After the announcement, all applicants will have the opportunity to set up an appointment with the program manager, Kris Kautzman, for feedback from the panelists.

A panel of eight Willmar community members (musicians and non-musicians) has come together to identify project goals and describe the characteristics of composers who could be a good fit for this residency. American Composers Forum staff have no vote in the selection of the composer. The role of the staff is to assist with developing the residency and to facilitate the panel review process.

HOW DO I APPLY?
Please complete the free online application at https://americancomposersforum.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/41061, where you will share:
• 1-4 Audio or video sample(s) of your work:
  o Your own original music (up to 2 samples)
  o Teaching activities you’ve done (up to 2 samples)
  o The panel will listen to at least 3 minutes of each sample you submit
• Teaching materials, music scores, or charts you’ve created, which support your samples
• Replies to 2 questions that explain why you think you will be a good fit for this residency, either in written form (3 pages max) or video form (4 minutes max):
  1. Why does this opportunity interest you?
  2. What strengths and skills would you bring to this residency?
• A resume OR a list of 10 experiences that have shaped you as a musician
• Names and contact information for 2 people who know about your experience teaching composition or songwriting, and/or your experience with artistic collaboration

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HOW CAN I GET SUPPORT FOR MY APPLICATION?
ACF staff want you to feel confident that you've put together your strongest application for our programs. Application workshops for this program will be held on:

   Monday, 02.05.18 @ 6:30 pm
   Tuesday, 02.06.18 @ 12:30 pm
   Thursday, 02.08.18 @ 7:00 pm

You may attend a workshop in person or online. Everyone who registers for a workshop will be sent the login information, so that you can dial in if you’re unable to attend in person.

If the application process presents barriers based on language, cultural background, or disability, we accommodate special application requests to the best of our ability. If you need assistance, or if you are unable to attend the workshops and have questions, please contact Kris Kautzman at kkautzman@composersforum.org or 651.251.2842.

Thank you for your interest in this new program - we look forward to receiving your application!