1-6 Restates the info available on the ACF website
7 How the application is designed
8 Encouragement
9 About work samples
10 If you feel stuck
End with Q & A, reminders & thank you for applying!
1 - ABOUT ACF

- National membership & support organization for composers… plus the innova recording label
- Founded as the MN Composers Forum more than 40 years ago
- 11 full & part-time staff
- With funding from local and national sources we offer a variety of programs and awards for composers at all stages of their artistic lives
2 - ABOUT IN COMMON

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. Annually, each selected community will host a project that is unique to their needs, and which brings diverse people together, including civic leaders, a faith congregation, service organizations, and artists. During the residency, community participants from all walks of life will gather to discover shared experience and purpose, and to imagine better lives in the place they all call home.

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. The selected composer will receive $18,000, be reimbursed for up to $2,000 of travel expenses, and will be required to spend at least 36 days in the community during the yearlong collaboration.
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% 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.
4 - WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Those who live within driving distance of Willmar, MN are eligible.
- Composers of all musical styles, with and/or without written notation, are eligible.
- Members and non-members of ACF are eligible.
- Composers who have participated in an ACF residency in the past four years are not eligible.
- Staff and board members of ACF and their immediate family are not eligible.
5 - 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.
6 - 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 Kris for feedback from the panelists.
An arc: designed for you to tell your story, and make a case for why you believe you’re a good fit for a community-wide songwriting project in Willmar.

Like a table with 4 legs:
1. Composition sample(s)
2. Teaching sample(s)
3. Narrative
4. Resume or list of 10 experiences

There are also some really fabulous tables with only 3 legs!
If you don’t feel as strong about one of your “legs,” but are inspired by the project concept, you can still apply!
8 - BE YOURSELF

- Explain how / why you are inspired by this project idea – however that feels natural to you.

- Resist the temptation to “try to please the panel” with what you think they want, if doing so doesn’t feel consistent with who you are as an artist.

- Musicians (you!) have rich life experience and are interested in many different kinds of music. The panel won’t just be looking for one narrow thing. Different varieties of music samples can show breadth & experience.

- Ask questions – I’m happy to help (that’s me being myself!) 😊
9 - WORK SAMPLES

- Composition sample(s) = your creative voice
- Teaching sample(s) = demonstration of helping others find & share their creative voices

Know / decide why you’re sharing each sample.

Use the field called “Tell us why you chose to share this sample” to support your story arc.

ACF has never asked for teaching samples before, because we’ve never done a project where the partnering community would like to find a teaching artist. We anticipate most applicants will have questions about this part of the application.
If you reach points in the application that seem challenging, and you’re not sure how to frame something, ask yourself:

- Am I trying to duplicate or add new information to my story?
- Is there somewhere else in the application I could highlight this (instead of where I’m trying to put it now)?
- Can I reference something else in my application that will help give this part more/better context?
REMINDERS:

- The deadline is 11:59 pm on Monday, March 5th
- Late applications will not be accepted
- Find a friend to read through your app materials
- Test your links before you submit
- Let your references know what you listed them for
- Good things come from crafting & sharing your story

THANK YOU FOR APPLYING!