The American Composers Forum is a fiscal year 2018 recipient of an Operating Support grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.

Two thousand eighteen, in the key of now

“NextNotes was a life-changing experience that enhanced my appreciation of the arts, improved my skills, and gave me confidence as a composer.”

Benjamin Ballmer, 2018 NextNotes finalist

“My sense of self and personal validation has been hugely impacted by the McKnight Fellowship.”

Linda Kachelmeier, 2017 McKnight Composer Fellow

“I can’t imagine a better resource for dedicated musicians than ACF. Winning the MECA and performing a Landmark to Lowertown show were huge leaps for me in terms of developing professional confidence and achieving artistic maturity.”

Jon Davis, 2010 MECA awardee and 2017 Landmark to Lowertown performer

“Before NextNotes, I really didn’t think of myself as a ‘real’ composer and was not sure about what being a composer means. NextNotes gave me the confidence to pursue my ideas and try different forms of composition/instrumentations.”

Isaac Applebaum, 2018 NextNotes finalist

“I told many people over the past few months that the Healing & Hope Through Song residency has been the most rewarding project of my life.”

Victor Zupanc, 2018 Healing & Hope Through Song composer
Programs
- Partnered with the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble and Roomful of Teeth for the ACF CONNECT program and received over 400 applications for each program. 
- Awarded more than nearly $300,000 in grants to a diverse group of composers and performers for each program. 
- Served 1,197 members in all 50 states as well as 7 countries outside of the U.S. 
- Partnered with Adulation aka Purple Change to present the 15th annual ACF Showcase Concert, featuring music by composers chosen from a national call for scores. 
- Introduced a monthly membership subscription option. 
- New partnerships with St. Paul Winter Carnival and the Science Museum of Minnesota established, 21 artists to perform in front of hundreds of audience members. 
- More than 1,000 people attended the premiere of Love Never Forgets, new choral music by Louisa Castner and Victor Zupanc, commissioned through an ACF community residency program in Minnesota. 
- Promoted BandQuest, ChoralQuest, and NextNotes at Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago, IL, reaching over 17,000 attendees. 
- Made the entirety of BandQuest and ChoralQuest series pieces available for digital purchase along with the existing hardgood retail. 
- NextNotes Lab, a MN-based group of teen composers, held several music writing workshops, as well as performances by the composers and their peers.

Education
- Awarded seven young composers with mentorship, professional performances, and scholarship funds through the fourth NextNotes High School Composition Awards after a record high number of submissions. 
- Provided valuable composer panelist feedback to 17 NextNotes honorable mention non-commissioned ACF student members, as well as 10 NextNotes applicants. 
- Reached over 1 million students to date through BandQuest and ChoralQuest. 
- Reached nearly 1.5 million students to date through BandQuest and ChoralQuest. 
- The choir at Great Falls Middle School in Montague, MA, worked on the ninth piece in the ChoralQuest series, "Somos los dueños," by Judd Greenstein. 
- The middle school band at E.C. Adams Middle School in Guilford, CT, premiered the 25th BandQuest piece, "Pop!" by Tawnie Olson. 
- Reached nearly 400,000 students to date through BandQuest and ChoralQuest. 
- NextNotes Lab, a MN-based group of teen composers, held several music writing workshops, as well as performances by the composers and their peers.
ACF Connect
Minghui Chen (Ontario, Canada)
Mary Slogerud (Brooklyn, NY)
Peter S. Shin (Kansas City, MO)
ACF Showcase
Larry McDonough (Seattle, WA)
BandQuest
Saelee Olson (New Haven, CT)
Champion of New Music Awards
Sarah Cahill
Nicole Mitchell
Jim Salley
ChoralQuest
Queen Diva (Brooklyn, NY)
Chorus Austin with Joshua Fishbein
In Common
Judd Greenstein (Gill, MA)
Dale Warland Singers
Commission Award
Choir Director, Richard Montgomery High School, teacher of Nimah Nayel
Gary Gage
Arts Council, Evanston, Children’s Choir, teacher of Benjamin Ballmer
Volker Goetze (Staten Island, NY)
Minnesota Emerging Composer Awards
Queen Diva (Saint Paul, MN)
Holly Hansen (Minneapolis, MN)
Ian Weaver (Minneapolis, MN)
Minnesota Orchestra
 Composer Institute
Saeed Hojjati (Los Angeles, CA)
Andrew Hu (Pinecrest, FL)
Charlie Poole (Philadelphia, PA)
Hana Purington (New Haven, CT)
Daniel Schedlbauer (Brooklyn, NY)
Peter S. Shin (Kansas City, MO)
Nina C. Young (New York, NY)
MNestNotes High School Composition Awards
Roni Appelbaum and Naima Nayel
Finalists
Rachel Bauman (Minneapolis, MN)
Trey Rogers (Dubuque, IA)
McKnight Composers Fellowship Awards
Joshua Dickey (Minneapolis, MN)
Scott L. Miller (Chicago, IL)
JG Sanders (Ashfield, MA)
Tillynn M. Skidmore (Palton Heights, MN)
Chorus Austin with Joshua Fishbein
NextNotes High School Composition Awards
Isaac Applebaum and Nimah Nayel
Finalists
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Benjamin Ballmer (Evanston, IL)
Esther Corder (Los Angeles, CA)
Isaac Santos (Hollywood, FL)
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innova Recordings continues to champion visionary musical voices. In FY18, innova released and broadly distributed 24 groundbreaking titles featuring artists and composers from diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences. Life As Is pairs Issam Rafea and Gao Hong, Syrian and Chinese musicians, meeting in Minnesota to create a contemplative and resonant collaboration. Night Wave by Yuko Fujiyama is a delicate and incisive improvisational tour de force.

Achieved high visibility playlist placement, digital, and physical retail placement (eg, Spotify, Apple Music) and facilitated a large number of licensing opportunities (including phone commercial and Netflix) on artists’ behalf.

Received a continual stream of recognition and critical praise, both nationally and internationally, for our artists’ projects in 2018 from NPR, Wall Street Journal, Songlines, Downbeat, PopMatters, Gramophone, New York Times, HuffPost, and San Francisco Chronicle, to name a few.

Garnered national and international radio play. Co-produced (with Zeitgeist) Inn-fest, a three-day festival of innova artists in St. Paul, MN. Supported artists’ tours and shows, and presenting at conferences, such as Chamber Music America.

innova continues to pay out 100% of all sales to artists, resulting in more than $40,000 in 2018 and more than $1 million lifetime. Offered stability and a uniquely artist-friendly business model that ensures the work will be around for years to come.
A special thank you to all the organizations that partnered with us last year.

American Composers Orchestra (New York, NY)
B'nai Israel Synagogue (Rochester, MN)
Christ United Methodist Church (Rochester, MN)
Coalesse Center for Dance and the Performing Arts (Minneapolis, MN)
E.C. Adams Middle School (Guilford, CT)
Five Corners United Church of Christ (Shrewed, MN)
Gaiser Voice (Minneapolis, MN)
Great Falls Middle School (Montague, MA)
Hal Leonard Corporation (Milwaukee, WI)
Jaladove aka Purple Orange (Minneapolis, MN)
Landmark Center (St. Paul, MN)
Lord of Life Lutheran Church (Baxter, MN)
MacPhail Center for Music (Minneapolis, MN)
Make Music Alliance (NY, NY)
MakeMusic, Inc. (Boulder, CO)
Mesa Verde Special Services Inc (Grand PA, MN)
Minnesota Boychoir (St. Paul, MN)
Minnesota Choral Artists (St. Paul, MN)
Minnesota Opera (Minneapolis, MN)
Minnesota Orchestra (Minneapolis, MN)
Minnesota Public Radio (Grand PA, MN)
Noteflight, LLC (Somerville MA)
Open Eye Figure Theatre (Minneapolis, MN)

Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble (Pittsburgh, PA)
Roomful of Teeth (North Adams, MA)
Saint Paul Winter Chamber (St. Paul, MN)
Science Museum of Minnesota (St. Paul, MN)
Springboard for the Arts (St. Paul, MN)
University of MN School of Music (Minneapolis, MN)
Vocalessence (Minneapolis, MN)
West Central Singers (Willmar, MN)

Love Never Forgets

More than 1000 people attended the June 2018 premiere of Love Never Forgets, new choral music by Louisa Castner and Victor Zupanc, commissioned through an ACF community residency program in Minnesota. This 18-month project with Giving Voice and MacPhail Center for Music set out to boldly defy conventional wisdom that people with Alzheimer’s can’t learn new things. A crew from CBS News, led by Dr. Jon LaPook, spent two days with the choir, thoughtfully filming interviews, rehearsals, and the concert at The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts.

American Composers Forum
Statement of Financial Activity
for the year ending June 30, 2018

Financial Overview

Foundation Grants $578,064
Government Grants  93,224
Individual Contributions  258,067
Membership  57,822
Endowment Draw  242,780
Board designated Reserve 53,638
Earned Income  213,378
Total Operations Income $1,496,973

Expense
Commissioning & Residency $451,761
Readings & Performances  42,582
Education  190,226
Media  298,301
Member Services  106,544
Chapters   26,219
Administration  172,052
Development  216,395
Total Operations Expense $1,504,080

Incomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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Donors

Delta David Gier

Philip & Carolyn Brunelle

Barbara Ann Brown

Gale Sharpe & The Albrecht

Stephen Miles & Kathy Killion & John Gorchala

Deborah Kermeen & Sally Cheng

Anonymous

Bill & Susan Sands

John Nuechterlein

Alfred & Anne Moore

Estate of Hella Mears Hueg*

& Anthony Cascardi

Jennifer Howard

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William Kinney

Melitta Drechsler & Kay Fredericks

Bruce & Mary Bean

Jana Davies

David & Judy Myers

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Mike & Kay McCarthy

Bonnie Marshall

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