



July 2009-June 2010 | Celebrating 35 Years



AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM



Photos: (clockwise from top left): the Providence String Quartet (Providence, R.I.) received an Encore grant to perform a work by composer Geoffrey Hudson (Pelham, Mass.); Mvskoke nation composer Joy Harjo (New Mexico) was awarded a FNCI grant; composer Peter O'Gorman (White Bear Lake, Minn.) received a McKnight Fellowship; composer Wang Jie (Philadelphia, Pa.) and conductor Osmo Vänskä go over her score for "Symphony No. 1: Awakenings," performed at a Future Classics concert at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, during the Minnesota Orchestra Composers Institute.

Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute photos on cover and page 4 by Greg Helgeson. Peter O'Gorman photo by V. Paul Virtucio.

Annual Report 2010





The American Composers Forum enriches lives by nurturing the creative spirit of composers and communities. We provide new opportunities for composers and their music to flourish, and engage communities in the creation, performance, and enjoyment of new music.

A letter from
John Nuechterlein
+
President and CEO



Libby Larsen (left) with Vern Sutton (right) and Maria Jette (kneeling) celebrating at ACF's 35th anniversary party at the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis, Minn.

My friend and muse, celebrated composer Libby Larsen, recently told an audience that “music is alive and well in our culture”, and she said it with an exclamation point! I agree with her. You don’t have to follow an organization like the American Composers Forum to know that music is being created in more and varied ways than ever before, and by more people than ever before. While the full-time, professional composer is still relatively rare, options abound for exploring composition on a part-time basis with limited training. With the exception of disappearing music programs in our schools, avenues for creative musical expression have grown and multiplied.

With deepest gratitude to countless individuals, I am thrilled to open this report by noting the 35th anniversary of the American Composers Forum in 2010! The Forum was actually birthed in 1973 through a series of concerts called the “Forums”, but its articles of incorporation were signed on March 19, 1975 by six intrepid individuals: Dennis Russell Davies, Libby Larsen, Stephen Paulus, James Reese, Eric Stokes and Suzanne Weil. Little did they know what the idea would become, and it’s an honor indeed to lead an organization that blazed so many trails in its quest to serve living artists and the communities in which they live.

You will read in these pages a short list of our many accomplishments in FY2010, none of which could have been accomplished without our fine staff, zealous board and, of course, the hundreds of composers and performers we serve. As a leader in the field of new music, ACF will continue to break new ground and encourage a much wider audience to appreciate and commission new music. Our very purpose is to offer a place of meaningful connection and discovery. Like the original six signers to the articles of incorporation, we are dedicated to making a difference in this world through the music of living composers.

John Nuechterlein



pictured: Patrick Cress

"It's a very important thing for composers to be thinking about younger people. I had never thought about doing it before and ACF's BandQuest® has now sparked that interest for me." –Alex Shapiro

Program Highlights



Photos (counter-clockwise, top to bottom): A Bay Area subito grant enabled composer Patrick Cress (San Francisco, Calif.) to record natural sounds at Yosemite National Park to incorporate in his new work for saxophone solo entitled "The View From Above" which premiered at Yosemite Field Station in Wawona; a view at Yosemite; music by composer and guitarist Tom Smith aired on the New Music Philadelphia web radio channel; composer George Crumb is presented with a plaque noting his lifetime Forum membership by ACF Philadelphia's Denise Flynn Buczko and James Falconi; Composers and film makers networked "speed-dating" style during the Hollywood Calling weekend in St. Paul, Minn.; BandQuest composer Alex Shapiro talking to the Friday Harbor Middle School 7th grade band in Washington state.

Program Highlights

- Awarded over \$540,000 in grants to a diverse group of composers and performers of new music.
- Through our *Encore* program, funded multiple performances of new works by 175 performers in 28 states and 5 countries.
- Awarded 16 grants to Native American composers and performers from thirteen different nations.
- Released 37 new titles on *innova* and finalized an agreement with Naxos of America for world-wide distribution of the entire *innova* catalog, including digital, physical, streaming library, mechanicals, and licensing.
- Inaugurated the Minnesota Emerging Composer Awards (MECA), which consist of unrestricted grants to three Minnesota composers of jazz, electronic, and world music.
- Partnered with the Minnesota Orchestra to produce the ninth annual Composer Institute, a nationally recognized program comprised of workshops, coaching sessions, rehearsals, and a public performance of new orchestral pieces composed by talented emerging composers from throughout the United States.
- Concluded the decade-long *Continental Harmony* national commissioning project with the premiere of a new multi-media work entitled "Lowak Shoppala" (Fire and Light) by Chickasaw composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate in Ada, Oklahoma.
- *Composers Datebook* reached 1.1 million listeners each week through 157 public radio stations nationwide. With support from the College Band Directors National Association, began adding 50 new installments devoted to wind band repertory.

Membership/Professional Development

- Maintained an active membership base of over 1,800 composers, conductors and performers, with members in all 50 states and 12 countries.
- Produced *Hollywood Calling: An Insider's Guide to Film Scoring*, which drew composers from throughout the United States to the two-day workshop.



"ACF has been a real life-saver for us — to create, perform, and record."

— Carrie Vecchione and Rolf Erdahl



pictured in front: Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate and Margaret Roeach Wheeler

Program Highlights



Photos (top to bottom): Chickasaw composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate and Margaret Roeach Wheeler take a bow following the Continental Harmony premiere of "Lowak Shoppala" (Fire and Light) in Ada, Oklahoma; Onstage at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, composer Spender Topel (Hanover, N.H.) is congratulated by Minnesota Orchestra conductor after a Future Classics performance of Topel's "Incendio"; Composer Kathryn Salfelder (Boston, Mass.) and Institute Mentor Aaron Jay Kernis at an Orchestral Hall rehearsal during a Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute rehearsal; innova records released a critically-acclaimed 5-CD set celebrating 25 years of music by New York composers and performers.

Education

- Reached over 450,000 children to date through the *BandQuest*® series.
- Friday Harbor Middle School in Friday Harbor, Wash. premiered the first-ever electroacoustic *BandQuest*® piece, *Paper Cut*, by composer Alex Shapiro.
- Taught composition curriculum to educators from five communities across Minnesota with Music for Kids by Kids Tours Minnesota.
- Connected *BandQuest*® with hundreds of music educators at the Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference in the exhibition hall and through a presentation, "Teaching Teachers How to Teach Composition in the Classroom", by Michael Colgrass.

Chapter Activity

- *Sonic Circuits* Festival in Washington, D.C. (September 2009) featured composers from nearly a dozen countries.
- ACF/LA conducted its first annual composition competition with Mile Memorial Playhouse in Santa Monica, Calif.
- ACF/Bay Area awarded 68 grants totaling over \$87,000 for their subito and Community Partner programs, and produced two Composer Workshops and two Reading Sessions.
- ACF Philadelphia awarded 27 grants totaling \$72,000 through its subito and Community Partners programs. It also hosted two Composer to Composer events, three professional development workshops, and one New Voices concert featuring world premieres by six Philadelphia area composers.



innova's NYFA series celebrated 25 years of New York New Music via 9 CDs that Downbeat called a "stunning document of a historical culture." Over 55 artists were featured, each of whom had been awarded Fellowships in Music Composition from the New York Foundation for the Arts.



pictured: JP Hungelmann

Program Winners



Photo: Minneapolis artists JP Hungelmann (top) and Kevin Washington (bottom) received Minnesota Emerging Composer Awards; Chicago-based pianist Winston Choi received an Encore award to present a work by Minneapolis-based composer Kirsten Broberg (see page 6)

Program Winners

"I used to think that I was the only one out there crazy enough to write orchestra music and then the American Composers Forum connected me. Thank you American Composers Forum."

— Brian Wilbur Grundstrom

Encore

ACME (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
 Calliope (Minneapolis, Minn.)
 Winston Choi (Chicago, Ill.)
 Claremix (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
 Dither Electric Guitar Quartet (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
 Duo Solo (Stillwater, Okla.)
 Ethel (New York, N.Y.)
 Randall Hall (Bettendorf, Iowa)
 Yuri Inoo (Los Angeles, Calif.)
 Matthew McCright (Edina, Minn.)
 Mivos Quartet (New York, N.Y.)
 New Spectrum Ensemble (Palo Alto, Calif.)
 Providence String Quartet (Providence, R.I.)
 Quintet of the Americas (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
 Jeff Vickers (El Dorado, Ariz.)
 Vientos Trio (Altadena, Calif.)
 Zodiac Trio (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

Faith Partners

Elizabeth Alexander (St. Paul, Minn.)
 William Beckstrand (Grand Portage, Minn.)

Jerome Composer Commissioning Program (JCCP)

Darcy James Argue (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
 Benjamin Broening (Richmond, Va.)
 Christopher Danforth (St. Paul, Minn.)
 Elizabeth Hoffman (New York, N.Y.)
 Kathleen McTavish (Duluth, Minn.)
 Neel Murgai (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
 Dafna Naphtali (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
 Gregory Spears (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
 Chris Thomson (Minneapolis, Minn.)
 Daniel Wohl (Brooklyn, N.Y.)



pictured: Chris Thompson

“It’s a gift to be able to spend my life writing music, and without ACF, I would never have received this initial opportunity. Simply put, I can’t imagine my life without the American Composers Forum.”

— Robert Paterson

Program Winners



Photos (top to bottom): Through a JCCP grant, a work by Minneapolis composer Chris Thomson will be performed by the TU Dance company; an Encore grant funded Chicago performances of a work by Minneapolis composer Kirsten Broberg.

McKnight Composer Fellowships

Neal Hagberg (Minneapolis, Minn.)
Jocelyn Hagen (Minneapolis, Minn.)
Ann Millikan (St. Paul, Minn.)
Peter O’Gorman (White Bear Lake, Minn.)

McKnight Visiting Composer Residencies

Ellen Fullman (Berkeley, Calif.)
David James Nielsen (Westlake Village, Calif.)

Minnesota Emerging Composer Awards (MECA)

JP Hungelmann (Minneapolis, Minn.)
Kevin Washington (Minneapolis, Minn.)
Yilma Woldemedhen (Minneapolis, Minn.)

Welcome Christmas

Michael Glasgow (Raleigh, N.C.)
Robert Sieving (Minnetonka, Minn.)

First Nations Composer Initiative

Richard Auld (Muscogee; Alaska)
Oskii Giizhik (Ojibwe; Minn.)
Joy Harjo (Mvskoke; N.M.)
Shirley Kendall (Tlingit; Alaska) and Maria William (Haida; Alaska)
Cheryl L’Hirondelle (Mestis; Calif.)
Lightening Creek (Nez Perce; Idaho)
Shelly Morning Song (Northern Cheyenne; N.M.)
Grand Canyon Music Festival (Ariz.)
Porcupine Singers (Lakota; S.D.)
Murray Porter (Mohawk; British Columbia, Canada)
Janet Rogers (Mohawk; British Columbia, Canada)
Ian Skorodin (Choctaw; Calif.)
Ella Rose Sloan (Nez Perce; Idaho)
Arigon Starr (Kickapoo; Calif.)
Tash Terry (Navajo; Ariz.)
Mitch Walking Elk (Cheyenne Arapaho; Minn.)



pictured: Gao Hong

+ innova Recordings



Photos top to bottom: innova artists Gao Hong (Minneapolis, Minn.); Andrew Violette (New York, N.Y.), Maya Beiser (Brooklyn, N.Y.), and Nathaniel Stookey (San Francisco, Calif.)

innova recordings FY 2010

“The Forum has been pivotal for my work.”

— Kathy McTavish

Andrew Sterman:

Wet Paint

Andrew Violette:

Songs and Dances

Andrew Violette:

UltraViolette

Anne Le Baron:

1,2,4,3

Anti-Social Music:

Fracture, the Music of Pat Muchmore

Barton McLean:

Soundworlds

Beta Collide:

psst... Psst!

BLOB:

Earphonious Swamphony

Christopher Burns:

Triptych

<541> Music from Stanford, Vol. 4

Frank Almond:

Portraits & Elegies

Gao Hong:

Quiet River, Flowing Stream

Gene Pritsker:

Varieties of Religious Experience Suite

GVSU New Music Ensemble,

Bill Ryan, dir:

Terry Riley's In C Remixed

Harley Gaber:

I Saw My Mother Ascending Mount Fuji

Jamie Begian Big Band:

Big Fat Grin

Judith Shatin:

Tower of the Eight Winds

Lawrence Moss:

Chamber Works

Marina Rosenfeld/George Lewis:

Sour Mash

Maya Beiser:

Provenance

Michael Ellison:

Invocation

Nathaniel Stookey:

Junkestra

Neel Murgai Ensemble

Newman Taylor Baker:

Drum – Suite – Life

Nirmala Rajasekar:

Into the Raga

The NYFA Collection:

25 Years of New York New Music

Oasis Quartet:

Glass, Gotkovsky, Escaich

PRISM/Music from China:

Antiphony

Psychoangelo:

Panauromni

Salo:

Sundial Lotus

Society for New Music:

Serendipity

Timothy McAllister:

GLINT

UST Symphonic Wind Ensemble:

From All Sides

Volti:

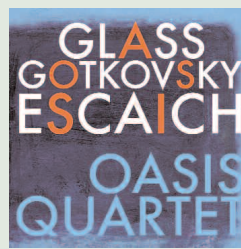
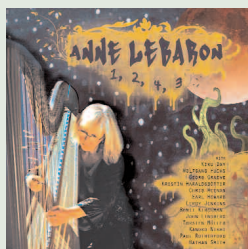
Turn the Page

Zack Browning:

Venus Notorious

Zeitgeist:

In Bone-Colored Light





“I wanted to write string quartets, choral anthems, oboe and clarinet duets... And yes, I’ll admit it – symphonies. I responded to ACF and their calls for scores from all over the world, places I was never going to get on my own.”

— Anonymous

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OTTO
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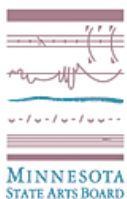
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“Congratulations on your vibrant
35 years of dedicated service for all
composers, performers, and lovers of
new music.” — Liz Wolff

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The American Composers Forum is a fiscal year 2010 recipient of a Institutional Support grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board.

This activity is made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008, a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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pictured: TU Dance

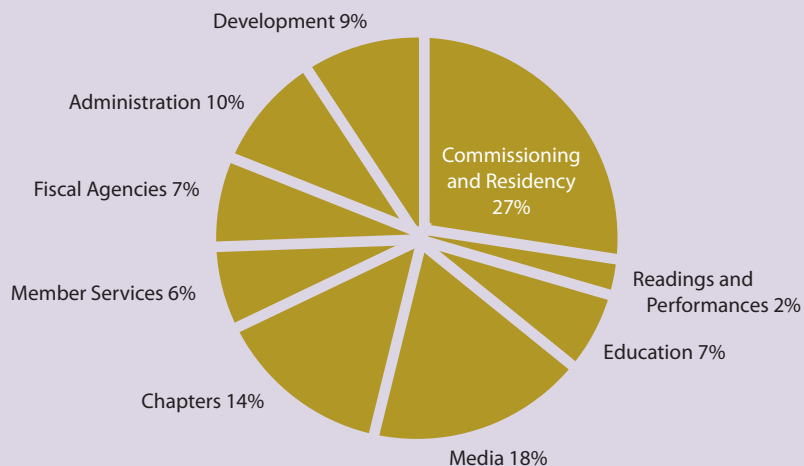
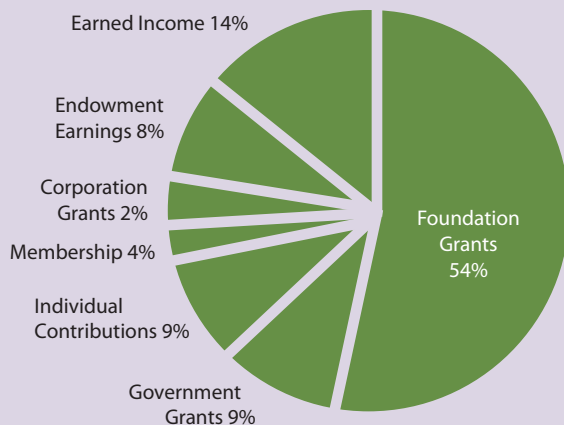
“What a wonderful experience it was to work with the American Composers Forum. I had the privilege of being one of the composers for the BandQuest series, and I really enjoyed writing something that I thought would be appealing to the junior high-middle school band level.”

— Chris Brubeck

Financials

Statement of Financial Activity for the year ending June 30, 2010

Income		Expense	
Foundation Grants	\$981,627	Commissioning and Residency	\$498,455
Individual Contributions	163,152	Education	117,403
Membership	71,906	Chapters	251,384 115,216
Earned Income	259,849	Fiscal Agencies	169,476
		Development	
		Total C	





pictured: Sebastian Ruth of
the Providence String Quartet

“Thank you ACF — you helped to open up worlds for my music.”

— Rain Worthington

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For current contact information
and staff, board, and chapter listings,
visit www.composersforum.org



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