

A large, stylized graphic on the left side of the cover. It is a composite of a violin's body and a lightbulb. The violin body is a vibrant red, and the lightbulb is also red, with its base visible at the bottom. The background is black.

# In the key of now™

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# 2011

*Annual Report*

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.



AMERICAN  
COMPOSERS  
FORUM

# 2011



a letter from

John Nuechterlein  
President and CEO

*With enormous thanks to the dedicated Forum staff and the generous support of our committed board, it is truly an honor to present the FY2011 report. We may live in tenuous economic times, but it was an extraordinary year for new things at the Forum. We launched three entirely new initiatives, commissioned three new works for our expanded "Quest" series, added shows to Composers Datebook® radio program, started a teaching artist training program, and capped off the year with a 14-day marathon of some 60 innova® artists in New York at The Stone. The following pages highlight detailed activities, but a quick review confirms this was an amazing year.*

*The year was also a time for serious reflection on our role in the ecology of service organizations. We concluded a year-long process of strategic thinking, which helped clarify the common thread through all our programs as an excitement for – and commitment to – **discovering the new**. The work of living composers evolves organically (as it always has), and our role is to respond and adapt with meaningful programs and initiatives. We re-committed ourselves to four key programmatic focus areas: Membership and Professional Development, Community Engagement, Recordings, and of course Education. Each of these is an important way in which we support composers as living artists, connect them to community and give them a stronger voice in our culture.*

*Much of our work in FY2011 was preparation for our new role as the leading national membership organization for composers. The pending merger of our colleagues at American Music Center and Meet the Composer required that we deepen and sharpen our unique role. Our new visual identity and more flexible, interactive website is the result of that effort, helping to give us a fresh look and better tools for communicating with our 2,000+ members. The new website has a vastly improved section of professional development materials, and we can now give better visibility to the important stories that result from our work. Importantly, we have also placed innova® recordings front and center on our homepage to better align the growing label with its parent organization.*

*It is gratifying to report these accomplishments not for their own sake, but for what they contribute to our culture. We exist to support those who create new work, and I have never been more encouraged by the wealth of opportunity for living composers. Much has been written recently about the increasing number of ensembles dedicated to new music, which itself is a term that constantly evolves. We look forward to the enormous opportunities ahead!*

Sincerely,

John Nuechterlein  
President and CEO

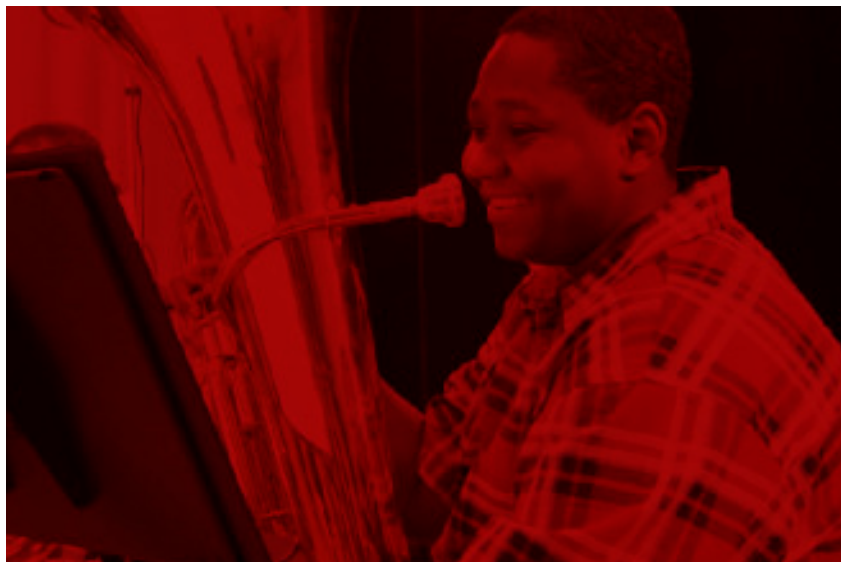


Photo: Jim Nihart



Clockwise from top left: Tuba player from Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School in New Haven, CT. His request for a solo shaped the opening lines of Christopher Theofanidis' *BandQuest®* piece, *Sweet like that* • Members of the Minnesota BoyChoir rehearse pieces written by composer Tim Takach and poet Julia Klatt Singer as part of the *Healing and Hope Through Song* residency. Takach and Singer worked with patients and their families at Children's Hospital in Saint Paul, MN to write new music that reflected their experiences and hopes for the future • Denman Maroney accompanying Theo Bleckmann singing his W.B. Yeats songs at *The Stone* • From left: Adolphus Hailstork, Linda Kachelmeier, Marie Incontrera, Norman Mathews, Paul Rudoi, and Philip Brunelle on stage at *Sundin Music Hall* following the public reading session for this year's *Essentially Choral* • 2010 *Composer Institute* participants on stage at *Orchestra Hall* in Minneapolis, MN. (from left) Osmo Vänskä, Aaron Jay Kernis, Ben Phelps, Narong Prangcharoen, Polina Nazaykinskaya, Wang Jie, David Weaver, Clint Needham, and Taylor Brizendine • George Lewis warming up his laptop before his show with Marina Rosenfeld at *The Stone* • *ChoralQuest™* composer Alice Parker talks with choir students from the Amherst Regional Middle School in Amherst, MA.

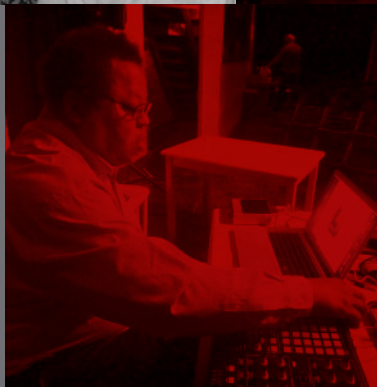


Photo: Greg Helgeson



## 2011

## Program Highlights

- Awarded more than \$489,000 in grants to a diverse group of composers and performers of new music.
- Launched the *Finale National Composition Contest*, in partnership with MakeMusic, Inc. and the acclaimed new music ensemble “eighth blackbird.”
- Awarded eleven grants to Native American composers and performers from nine different nations.
- Inaugurated *Live Music for Dance Minnesota*, a grant program that supports collaborations among composers, choreographers, and professional dance companies.
- Partnered with the Minnesota Orchestra to produce the tenth annual *Composer Institute*, a nationally recognized program comprised of career development workshops, coaching sessions, rehearsals, and a public performance of new orchestral pieces composed by talented emerging composers from throughout the United States.
- *Composers Datebook* reached 1 million listeners each week through more than 150 public radio stations nationwide. With support from the College Band Directors National Association, we continued adding 50 new installments devoted to wind band repertory.

## Membership / Professional Development

- Maintained an active membership base of more than 2,000 composers, conductors and performers, with members in all 50 states and 12 countries.
- *Essentially Choral* provided a unique opportunity for talented, emerging composers to work with a professional chorus to refine works for voices. Four emerging composers heard their works rehearsed by the 32-voice VocalEssence Ensemble Singers (MN) and attended mentoring sessions with VocalEssence Artistic Director Philip Brunelle and composer Adolphus Hailstork.
- *Tuesday Salons* offered regional composers a venue for informal presentation of new work, interactive discussions and networking opportunities.

## Education

- Reached more than 516,000 children to date through the *BandQuest*® series.
- The 7th and 8th grade band at Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School in New Haven, CT premiered the 18th *BandQuest*® piece, *Sweet like that* by Christopher Theofanidis.
- Connected *BandQuest*® with hundreds of music educators at the Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference in the exhibition hall and through two presentations of “Teaching Teachers How to Teach Composition in the Classroom”, by Michael Colgrass.

- Launched the *ChoralQuest*™ series with the premieres of two pieces: *Through All Things* by Stephen Paulus, premiered by the Oak Grove Singers of Oak Grove Middle School (Bloomington, MN); and *Dancing Songs* by Alice Parker, premiered by the 200-voice Amherst Regional Middle School Choir (Amherst, MA).
- Trained 10 Minnesota composers to work with youth in the classroom through the *Composer Teaching Artist Training Program*, a pilot program funded by the Mardak Foundation.

## Innova Recordings

- Released 29 new titles.
- Presented a two-week innova marathon of 24 shows at The Stone in New York City (May 2011). More than 60 innova artists participated.
- Significantly expanded content on the innova Youtube channel.
- Strengthened distribution through Naxos USA through the streaming library.
- A number of releases were featured prominently on iTunes, Amazon, and emusic home pages.
- Attended South By Southwest in Austin, TX, participating in label events and supporting innova artists at the showcases.
- Orlando Jacinto Garcia’s “mixture” received a 2011 Latin Grammy nomination in the Best Contemporary Classical Composition category.
- All About Innova, an informative and upbeat video introduction to the label, was produced and posted to Youtube in January. It has been viewed over 1,500 times.
- Innova’s Facebook page doubled its number of followers over the year to 2,135.

## Chapter Activity

- ACF-Bay Area awarded 73 *Subito* grants and 4 *Community Partner* grants totaling \$82,450.
- ACF-Philadelphia awarded 21 grants (benefiting 35 composers) totaling \$72,000 through its *Subito* and *Community Partners* programs. It also hosted two *Composer to Composer* events, three professional development workshops, and presented a New Voices opera project entitled “The Decameron” which featured scenes by seven Philadelphia composers.
- ACF-Los Angeles held its 2nd Annual Original Composition Concert and Membership Meeting at Boston Court Theater in Pasadena, and engaged Michael Birnbreyer as teacher for its *Making Music in the Schools* program at Blair High School.
- ACF-Minnesota offered 9 performance salons in partnership with Zeitgeist serving 36 composers and 68 performers.

### Composer Teaching Artist Training Program

Joseph Adams (Blaine, MN)  
Michael Croswell (Saint Paul, MN)  
Robert S. P. Gardner (Rochester, MN)  
A. Eric Heukeshoven (Winona, MN)  
Chad McAnally (Minneapolis, MN)  
Peter O'Gorman (White Bear Lake, MN)  
Bryan Donald-DeVoe Schumann (Falcon Heights, MN)  
Cristina Seaborn (Saint Cloud, MN)  
Corey Sevett (Minneapolis, MN)  
Troy Strand (Saint Paul, MN)

### Encore

Cadillac Moon Ensemble (Rye, NY)  
Patti Cudd (Woodbury, MN)  
Del Sol String Quartet (San Francisco, CA)  
Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble (Oakland, CA)  
Matthew McCright (Edina, MN)  
Michael Mizrahi (Appleton, WI)  
Pictures on Silence (Washington, DC)  
Third Angle Ensemble (Portland, OR)

### Essentially Choral

Marie Incontrera (Brooklyn, NY)  
Linda Kachelmeier (Saint Paul, MN)  
Norman Matthews (New York, NY)  
Paul Rudoi (Richfield, MN)

### Faith Partners

Zebulon Highben (Haslett, MI)  
Victor Zupanc (Minneapolis, MN)

### Finale National Compositions Contest

Andy Akiho (Princeton, NJ)  
Eric Lindsay (Bloomington, IN)  
Kurt Rohde (San Francisco, CA)

### First Nations

#### Composer Initiative (FNCI)

Dark Water Rising (NC)  
Lewis deSoto (CA)  
Ensemble Music New Mexico (NM)  
Wade Fernandez (WI)  
Grand Canyon Music Festival (AZ)  
Meskwaki Lullabies (IA)  
Ian Skorodin (CA)  
Songs Unlimited, Inc. (AR)  
Southern California Indian Center (CA)  
George Quincy (NY)  
Gabriel Yaiva (AZ)

### Healing and Hope Through Song

Julia Klatt Singer (Minneapolis, MN)  
Timothy Takach (Minneapolis, MN)

### Jerome Fund For New Music (JFund)

Joshua Bauder (Crystal, MN)  
Joe Diebes (Brooklyn, NY)  
Tim Donahue (Minneapolis, MN)  
Max Duykers (Brooklyn, NY)  
Michael Gilbertson (New York, NY)  
Joel Harrison (Brooklyn, NY)  
Christopher Jentsch (Brooklyn, NY)  
Jeff Johnson (Minneapolis, MN)  
Linda Kachelmeier (Saint Paul, MN)  
Matthew Steckler (Brooklyn, NY)

### Live Music For Dance Minnesota

Jocelyn Hagen (Minneapolis, MN)  
Penelope Freeh (Saint Paul, MN)  
Janika Vandervelde (Saint Paul, MN)  
Deborah Jinza Thayer (Saint Paul, MN)  
Greg Brosofske (Minneapolis, MN)  
Carl Flink (Minneapolis, MN)  
James Everest (Minneapolis, MN)  
Bethany Lacktorin (Minneapolis, MN)  
Emily Johnson (Minneapolis, MN)  
Body Cartography Project (Minneapolis, MN)  
Zenon Dance Company (Minneapolis, MN)  
Ananya Dance Theater (Minneapolis, MN)  
Ragamala Dance (Minneapolis, MN)  
Black Label Movement (Minneapolis, MN)

### McKnight Composer Fellowships

Elizabeth Alexander (Saint Paul, MN)  
Justin Merritt (Northfield, MN)  
Jeremy Wagner (Minneapolis, MN)  
Spencer Wirth-Davis (Minneapolis, MN)

### McKnight Visiting Composer Residencies

Kanniks Kannikeswaran (Mason, OH)  
William Lackey (Columbia, MO)

### Minnesota Emerging Composer Awards (MECA)

Jon Davis (Minneapolis, MN)  
Pete Hennig (Minneapolis, MN)  
M.anifest/Kwame Tsikata (Minneapolis, MN)

### Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute

Taylor Brizendine (Los Angeles, CA)  
Wang Jie (Philadelphia, PA)  
Polina Nazaykinskaya (Austin, TX)  
Clint Needham (Bloomington, IN)  
Ben Phelps (Los Angeles, CA)  
Narong Prangcharoen (Kansas City, MO)  
David Weaver (Philadelphia, PA)

### Welcome Christmas

J. David Moore (Saint Paul, MN)  
Mark Shepperd (Woodbury, MN)



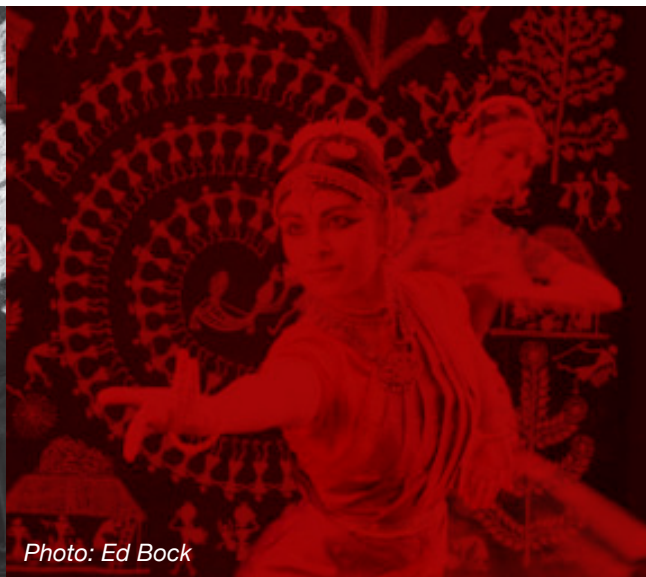


Photo: Ed Bock



Photo: Luke Ratray



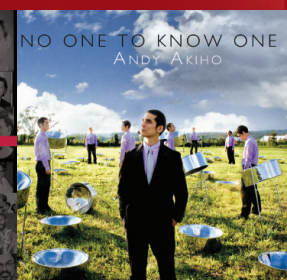
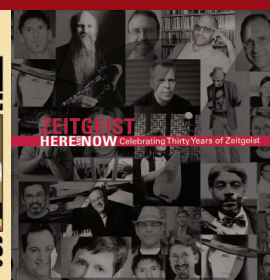
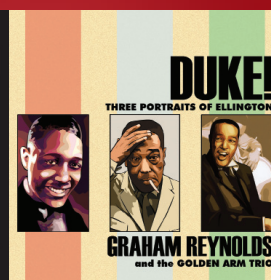
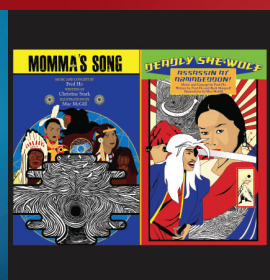
Photo: Greg Helgeson



Photo: Peter Ellenby



Clockwise from top left: Ben Gallina and his bass friend get ready to play some rock infused jazz, Salo style at The Stone • Ragamala Dance (Minneapolis, MN), winners of a Live Music for Dance/Minnesota grant • Composer Institute winner Wang Jie introduces "Symphony No. 1, (Awakenings)" to the Minnesota Orchestra during rehearsal while Osmo Vänskä looks on • McKnight Visiting Composer Ellen Fullman and her long string instrument in residency at Bethany College in Mankato, MN • Encore award winners, Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble (Oakland, CA) • eighth blackbird, ACF's performance partners in the inaugural Finale National Composition Contest.



Innova Recordings

# 2011

“...a vanguard for new music for more than two decades.”

– Russell Platt, The New Yorker

“the admirably broad-minded new-music label of the American Composers Forum.”

– Steve Smith, The New York Times

Esther Lamneck,  
Roberto Fabbriciani  
*Winds of the Heart*

Anthony de Mare  
*Speak! The Singing-Speaking Pianist*

Grant Cutler  
*2012*

Harley Gaber  
*In Memoriam 2010*

Robert Moran  
*Trinity Requiem*

Orchestra 2001  
*To The Point*

Ana Milosavljevic  
*Reflections*

Phillip Schroeder  
*Passage Through a Dream*

Neil Rolnick  
*Extended Family*

Maggi Payne  
*Arctic Winds*

Benjamin Broening  
*Recombinant Nocturnes*

Zeitgeist/Andrew Rindfleisch  
*Night Singing*

Paul Elwood  
*Stanley Kubrick's Mountain Home*

Mark Applebaum  
*The Metaphysics of Notation*

Fred Ho  
*Deadly She-Wolf*  
*Assassin at Armageddon/*  
*Momma's Song*  
*Big Red*  
*Year of the Tiger*

Graham Reynolds  
*The Difference Engine Duke!*

Iowa Percussion/  
Robert Moran  
*Cabinet of Curiosities*

DuoJalal  
*A Different World*

Galax Quartet/Karen Clark  
*On Cold Mountain*

Lee Pui Ming  
*She comes to shore*

Jeremy Beck  
*IonSound Project*

Zeitgeist  
*Here and Now*

PRISM Quartet  
*Dedication*

Andy Akiho  
*No One to Know One*

Katie Bull  
*Freak Miracle*

Talking Drums  
*Some Day Catch*  
*Some Day Down*

Alexander Berne  
*Flickers of Mime/*  
*Death of Memes*

Karl Berger  
*Creative Music*  
*Studio Vol.1*

Philadelphia  
Mendelssohn Club  
*Metamorphosis*



# 2011

## Corporate, Foundation, and Government Support

### \$100,000+

Bush Foundation  
Minnesota State Arts Board  
McKnight Foundation  
William Penn Foundation

### \$50,000-\$99,999

Ford Foundation  
Jerome Foundation  
National Endowment for the Arts

### \$25,000-\$49,999

Otto Bremer Foundation

### \$10,000-\$24,999

American Music Center  
Katherine B. Andersen Fund  
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Arts Midwest  
Athwin Foundation  
Aaron Copland Fund  
General Mills Foundation  
Rosemary H. and David F. Good  
Family Foundation  
Mardag Foundation  
Make Music, Inc.

### \$5,000-\$9,999

MAHADH Fund of HRK Foundation  
Saint Paul Cultural STAR  
Wenger Foundation

### \$1,000-4,999

ASCAP  
Arts Federation  
BMI Foundation  
Margaret Rivers Fund  
City of Minneapolis  
RBC Dain Rauscher  
Wells Fargo Foundation

### Matching Gifts

Ameriprise Foundation  
Ecolab Political Action Committee  
General Mills Matching  
Gifts Foundation  
Thrivent Financial  
Travelers

## Gifts from Individuals

### Grand Champion (\$10,000+)

Louis F. and Kathrine E. Hill

### Champion (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

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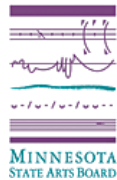
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Mandy Tuong and Michael Rhodes  
Arlene Williams



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, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.

## Donors

# 2011

### Enthusiast (\$100 - \$249)

Douglas Allchin  
Greg and Jill Allen  
Bryan and Suzanna Altman  
Kathleen and James Andrews  
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In honor of Craig Carnahan  
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Heather Barringer  
Albert Biales  
Roger J. Bjorgan  
Anselm Blumer



Photo: Jim Nihart

*"It was great fun to be included in the whole process from the first rehearsals to hearing the students perform the piece at their school. It is very gratifying to know you have helped create something that will challenge students and be of lasting value. To share this experience first-hand with the first performers was a delight."*

*-Fred and Ann Moore, on commissioning Stephen Paulus for ChoralQuest™*

Jeffrey and Jennifer Cadwell  
Joanna and Dick Cortright  
Michael Edwards  
Mary J. Greer  
Steve Heitzeg and Gwen Pappas  
Marian and Warren Hoffman  
Craig Hultgren  
Mark Kizilos  
Wilfred Kusaka  
Tania J. Leon  
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Andrea L. Stern  
David Stock  
David Evan Thomas  
Joseph E. Ward  
Sharon West  
David Wolff  
In memory of Barbara W. Kass  
and Eleanor Anderson  
In honor of Libby Larsen

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# American Composers Forum Statement of Financial Activity for the year ending June 30, 2011

Financials

# 2011

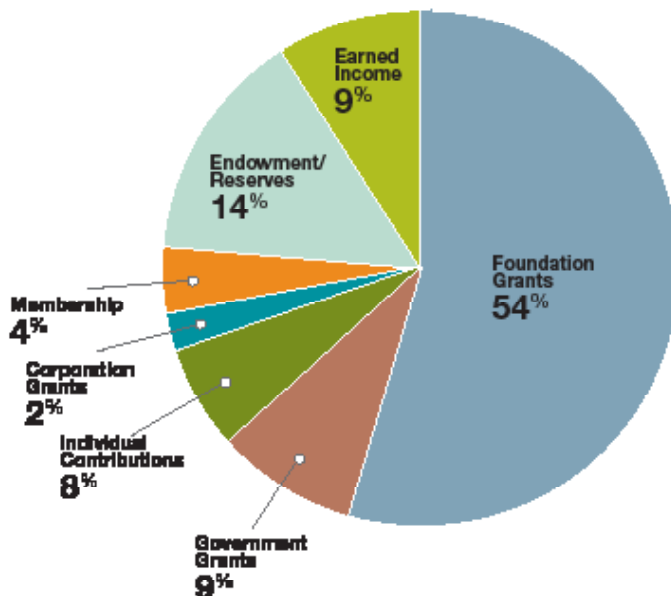
## Revenue

Foundation Grants	\$956,677
Government Grants	162,301
Individual Contributions	137,828
Corporation Grants	33,259
Membership	74,420
Endowment/Reserves	241,876
Earned Income	168,646
<b>Total Operations Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,775,007</b>

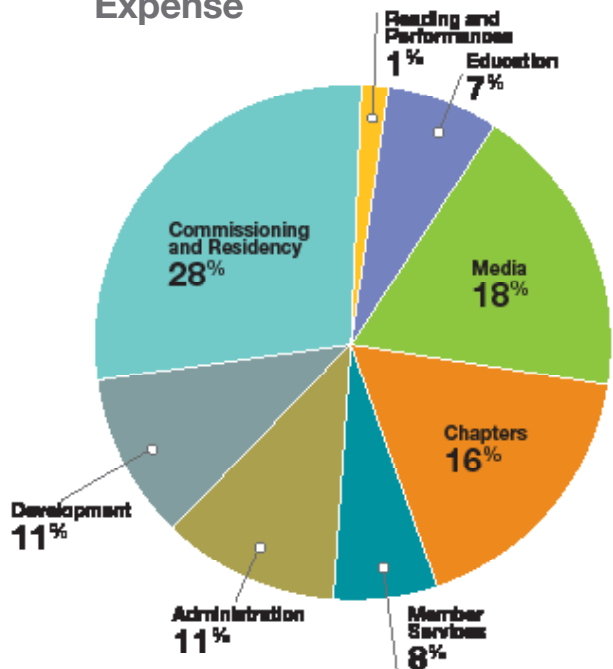
## Expense

Commissioning and Residency	\$491,719
Readings and Performances	24,952
Education	116,736
Media	328,034
Chapters	281,102
Member Services	134,816
Administration	194,468
Development	198,480
<b>Total Operations Expense</b>	<b>\$1,770,307</b>

Revenue



Expense





For current contact information on staff and board listings,  
visit [www.composersforum.org](http://www.composersforum.org)



332 Minnesota Street, Suite E-145  
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1300 USA  
Tel: 651.228.1407 Fax: 651.291.7978  
[mail@composersforum.org](mailto:mail@composersforum.org)  
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# 2011

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Vice President of Development

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Philip Blackburn  
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Chris Campbell  
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Jessica Mehlhoff  
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Director of Media Projects

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Program Assistant

Jay Walters  
Membership Services Representative

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Philadelphia: Denise Flynn Buczko,  
Adam Lesnick, and James Falconi  
San Francisco Bay Area: Tod Brody

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David Shifrin  
Stanislaw Skrowaczewski  
Leonard Slatkin  
Stephen Sondheim  
Tom Voegeli



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