



AMERICAN
COMPOSERS
FORUM

2015 ANNUAL REPORT
40TH ANNIVERSARY | IN THE KEY OF NOW





PROGRAMS YEAR IN REVIEW ■ Awarded more than \$409,000 in grants to a diverse group of composers and performers of new music ■ In partnership with *wild Up*, produced the fourth annual *ACF National Composition Contest*, which encourages creativity by graduate and undergraduate student composers. The winners of this year's competition were William Gardiner (Yale University), Alex Temple (Northwestern University) and Nina C. Young (Columbia University) ■ Welcomed the return of the *Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute*, under the new leadership of Kevin Puts ■ Partnered with electro-acoustic pianist Keith Kirchoff to present the second annual *ACF Showcase Concert*, featuring music by five composers chosen from a national call for scores ■ Launched *Faith Partners* residency projects in Mankato, MN, and La Crosse, WI, and continued residency in Owatonna, MN ■ Launched *Landmark to Lowertown (L2L)*, a mid-day concert series in unique venues located in downtown Saint Paul

EDUCATION YEAR IN REVIEW ■ Awarded six young composers with mentorship, professional performances and scholarships through the inaugural *NextNotes High School Composition Awards™* ■ Provided valuable composer panelist feedback to 26 *NextNotes Honorable Mention* recipients and free ACF student memberships to 139 *NextNotes* applicants ■ Reached over 1,461,000 children to date through the *BandQuest®* and *ChoralQuest®* series ■ The 7th & 8th grade band at Linden Avenue Middle School in Red Hook, NY, premiered the 22nd *BandQuest®* piece, *Eye of the Hawk*, by composer Susan Botti ■ The treble choir at Frontier Trail Middle School in Olathe, KS, premiered the sixth piece in the *ChoralQuest®* series, *Thinking of My Home*, by Chen Yi

AWARDEES & COMMISSIONS

ACF National Composition Contest

William Gardiner (New Haven, CT)
Alex Temple (Chicago, IL)
Nina C. Young (New York, NY)

ACF Showcase

Ashkan Behzadi (New York, NY)
Joshua Clausen (Minneapolis, MN)
Ian Dicke (Claremont, CA)
Livi Marinescu (Studio City, CA)
Scott Miller (Maple Grove, MN)

BandQuest®

Susan Botti (Red Hook, NY)

Champions of New Music Awards

American Composers Orchestra
(New York, NY)
Claire Chase (Brooklyn, NY)
Michael Morgan (Oakland, CA)

ChoralQuest®

Chen Yi (Kansas City, MO)

Faith Partners

George Maurer (Minneapolis, MN)
A. Eric Heukeshoven (Winona, MN)

Landmark to Lowertown

J.T. Bates (Minneapolis, MN)
Nona Marie Invie (Minneapolis, MN)
Orkestar Bez Ime (Minneapolis, MN)
Davu Seru (Saint Paul, MN)

Healing and Hope Through Song

Brian Laidlaw (Saint Paul, MN)
Paul Rudoi (Minneapolis, MN)

Jazz Noir Radio Program

Chris Bates (New Hope, MN)
Christina Ham (Minneapolis, MN)
Steven Hobert (Minneapolis, MN)
Dominic Orlando (Minneapolis, MN)
Solomon Parham (Saint Paul, MN)
Josh Wilder (Philadelphia, PA)

Jerome Fund for New Music (JFund)

Zack Baltich (Minneapolis, MN)
Justine F. Chen (New York, NY)
Jeff Fairbanks (Sunnyside, NY)
Anne Goldberg (New York, NY)
Molly Joyce (New York, NY)
Paul Kerekes (New York, NY)
Levy Lorenzo (Brooklyn, NY)
Jessica Meyer (Bronx, NY)
Kari Musil (Saint Paul, MN)
Natalie Nowytski (Minneapolis, MN)
Max Vernon (Brooklyn, NY)
Tamara Yadao (Brooklyn, NY)

McKnight Composer Fellowships

Abbie Betinis (Saint Paul, MN)
David King (Golden Valley, MN)
Reinaldo Moya (Northfield, MN)
Peter O'Gorman (White Bear Lake, MN)

McKnight Visiting

Composer Residencies

Clarice Assad (New York, NY)
Wayne Horvitz (Seattle, WA)

Minnesota Emerging Composer Awards (MECA)

Mike Hodnick (Chaska, MN)
Yohannes Tona (Fridley, MN)
Aby Wolf (Minneapolis, MN)

Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute

Kati Agócs (Boston, MA)
Eugene Birman (New York, NY)
Texu Kim (Bloomington, IN)
Loren Loiacono (Ithaca, NY)
Evan Meier (College Park, MD)
Matthew Peterson (Stockholm, Sweden)
Michael Schachter (Ann Arbor, MI)

Minnesota Varsity

John Kuntz (Eagan, MN)
Louisa Byron (Waseca, MN)

NextNotes™

Aiyana Tedi Braun (Ardmore, PA)
Evan Caplinger (San Diego, CA)
Quinn Mason (Dallas, TX)
April Lasken (Hampshire, IL)
Katya Richardson (Irvine, CA)
Ian Underhill-Cady (Minneapolis, MN)

Welcome Christmas

Justin Merritt (Northfield, MN)
Rachel DeVore Fogarty (Long Island City, NY)

**ACF would like to extend a special
thank you to all the organizations
that partnered with us last year.**



AMERICAN COMPOSERS
FORUM REMEMBERS

STEPHEN PAULUS 1949-2014

Stephen Paulus, co-founder of the American Composers Forum, died on October 19, 2014 from complications of a stroke. A prolific composer of over 500 works, he enjoyed writing for a variety of audiences and performers. He was an ardent advocate and mentor to many young composers, co-founding the American Composers Forum in 1973. He gave generously, and there are hundreds of colleagues and students who are grateful for all he did to support them and nurture their careers.

Advice to future
NextNotes™ applicants:
*"Seize the opportunity
to apply for this, because
this is once in a lifetime
opportunity. You'll gain
valuable advice and
experience that'll be
useful to your musical
career when you
get older."*

*Quinn Mason (TX),
inaugural NextNotes™ winner*



NextNotes winners meet with jazz artist Esperanza Spalding after her concert on June 27, 2015.

The *NextNotes*TM High School Composition Awards are a new national program designed to nurture the next generation of creative voices in music composition regardless of musical style. Awards encourage and recognize the creative and talented composers with mentorship, scholarship funds and a performance of their work by professional musicians.

The inaugural *NextNotes* Workshop and Concert took place June 25-28, 2015 at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Over two and a half days, the six winners, Aiyana Braun (PA), Evan Caplinger (CA), Quinn Mason (TX), April Lasken (IL), Katya Richardson (CA) and Ian Underhill-Cady (MN), worked with composer mentors, Joshua Clausen, Joe Horton and Libby Larsen (all of MN).

The musical diversity represented in both the winners and mentors helped set *NextNotes* apart from other composition programs. For many of our participants, it was their first opportunity to connect with other composers of their age and interest level without any restraint of the type of music each creates.

Mentors provided feedback on mentee compositions, assisted with the rehearsal process, and led conversations about composition and how they each approach life as a professional composer.

While the workshop period was not long, the *NextNotes* winners took full advantage of the opportunity: listening, learning, bonding and growing. Each expressed great appreciation for the program and a strong desire to come back to Minnesota in five years to reunite and meet the 5th cohort of *NextNotes* winners.

The workshop culminated in a concert and award ceremony at Macalester College's Mairs Concert Hall. Video of the concert can be viewed on ACF's Youtube channel, www.youtube.com/composersforum.



From left to right: Cynthia Gehrig, Billy Steele, Jearlyn Steele, J.D. Steele, Mary Ellen Childs, John Nuechterlein, Theresa Sweetland, Jevetta Steele, Fred Steele, Patty Feld

Sally Awards

ACF was a proud recipient of a Sally Ordway Irvine Award on June 22, 2015. The Sally Awards recognize the accomplishments of volunteers, artists and educators who contribute to and strengthen the arts and arts education throughout the state of Minnesota.

Champion of New Music Awards

A particular highlight of the year was the Champion of New Music Awards. Each of the following awardees deserves high praise and recognition for their extraordinary support of living composers and their work.

Michael Morgan

Music Director and Conductor,
Oakland East Bay Symphony

Award presented during a symphony concert at Paramount Theatre, Oakland, California, on February 20, 2015

Claire Chase

Flutist and Executive Director of
International Contemporary Ensemble

Award presented during a 15th anniversary celebration in Brooklyn on April 21, 2015

American Composers Orchestra, New York

Award presented during the Underwood Reading Sessions on May 7, 2015

FY2015 RELEASES

Paul Elwood: *Nice Folks*

PRISM: *Heritage/Evolution, Volume 1*

Clocked Out: *Time Crystals*

Dan Roman: *Musica de Palladium*

Tim Patterson: *Like Style, Dig?*
Percussion music of John Bergamo

Steven M. Miller: *Between Noise
and Silence*

Gao Hong and Friends: *Pipa Potluck*

Michael Hersch: *Last Autumn*

**Network for New Music/The
Crossing:** *Hesperus is Phosphorus*
by Lewis Spratlan

Jeremy Gill: *Capriccio*

Lisa Bielawa: *The Lay of the Love*

Jeffrey Zeigler: *Something of Life*

Aaron Helgeson: *Poems of
Sheer Nothingness*

Mihailo Trandafilovski: *FIVE*

Mike Olson: *Six Projects*

Jennie Oh Brown: *Looking Back;*
Flute Music of Joseph Schwantrner

Jenny Olivia Johnson: *Dont Look Back*

Mamak Khadem: *The Road*

Jane Antonia Cornish: *Continuum*

John Fitz Rogers: *Magna Mysteria*

Karen Gottlieb: *Music for Harp*

Mark Applebaum: *30*

Paula Matthusen: *Pieces for People*

"A label that documents all the thrilling stuff happening at the fringes of the American contemporary scene."

Jayson Greene, Wondering Sound

INNOVA RECORDINGS ■ Released 26 titles (total catalog now 528) that contribute to the musical ecosystem in vibrant ways. From jazz to world to new classical, innova continued to distribute vital projects that champion high quality new work ■ Strengthened relationships with key distributors, retail and media partners. **Frequent placement on iTunes homepage** has been a significant achievement in the past twelve months ■ Launched successful album campaigns for artists resulting in high visibility market placement (Apple Music, playlist features on Spotify and emusic) ■ Coverage in **respected media outlets** has increased (New York Times, Q2, Songlines, Classical MPR) ■ Launched **"Manufacture on Demand"** deal with Naxos of America to minimize cost for artists and ensure titles stay in print



2015 ANNUAL FUND & PROJECT SUPPORT

Government, Foundation and Corporate Support

\$100,000+

Bush Foundation
Jerome Foundation
John S. and James L.
Knight Foundation
The McKnight Foundation
Minnesota State Arts Board

\$25,000-\$49,999

Augustine Foundation
Otto Bremer Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Athwin Foundation
Aaron Copland Fund
for Music
Dr. Fred Noah Gordon
Charitable Fund
HRK Foundation
National Endowment
for the Arts
I.A. O'Shaughnessy
Foundation
Rosemary H. & David F.
Good Family Foundation
Wenger Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

General Mills Foundation
St. Paul Cultural STAR
City of Saint Paul

\$1,000-4,999

The Allegro Fund of the
Saint Paul Foundation
Amphion Foundation
ASCAP
BMI Foundation
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Foundation
Ted & Roberta Mann
Foundation
The Nash Foundation
RBC Foundation
Margaret Rivers Fund
Wells Fargo Foundation
Minnesota

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Ameriprise Foundation
Ecolab Foundation
Medtronic, Inc.
Travelers

Gifts from Individuals

**Includes project support*

Grand Champion (\$10,000+)

Anonymous
Alfred P. & Ann M. Moore

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

William & Susan Sands
Angus & Margaret Wurtele

Benefactor (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Meredith B. Alden
Scott F. Clugston
Dee Ann & Kent Crossley
Julia W. Dayton
Louis & Kathrine Hill

Sam Hseng-Hung Hsu
& Sally Cheng
Art & Martha Kaemmer
Daniel & Constance Kunin
John L. Nuechterlein
& Daniel R. Monson
Gayle & Timothy Ober
Kathleen van Bergen

Patron (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Todd Bault
Robert & Pearl Bergad
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Philip Brunelle
Richard Cisek
& Kay Fredericks
Joan Duddingston
Delta David & Angela Gier
Jack & Linda Hoeschler
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Hella Mears Hueg
Thelma Hunter
Barry & Cheryl Kempton
Deborah Kermeen
& John Grochala
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Dan & Ellie Thomas
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James Wafler
George & Elizabeth White

Sponsor (\$500 - \$999)

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Catherine Fischer
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Darrell & Katherine Majkrzak
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Louis & Gloria Nuechterlein
Steve & Karen Sonnenberg
Tom Voegeli

Aficionado (\$250 - \$499)

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Josephine Benz Carpenter
Patrick Castillo & Karen Kim
David Conte
Katherine Goodale
Jeff & Hyun Mee Graves
Mary J. Greer
Joy Harjo
Elizabeth A. Hoyer
& Lisa Swem
Aaron Jay Kernis
Vaughn & Lori Lane
Klopfenstein

Terry Knowles
& Marshall Rutter
Libby Larsen
Anne LeBaron
John A. Michel
David Moore, Jr.
Alex Shapiro
Stanislaw Skrowaczewski
Paul Sperry
Vern Sutton

Enthusiast (\$100 - \$249)

Roger Aldridge
J. Anthony & Erin Allen
Thomas Arneson
Fritz Bergmann
Abbie Betinis
Herbert Bielawa
Craig Carnahan
Mary Ellen Childs
Mark & Laurie Clark,
in memory of Marie
Pauline Anderson
Melinda L. Clark
Joanna & Richard Cortright
Don Davies
Kay Dawson
Jon Deak
Nellie DeBruyn
Kevin Duggins
C. Lee Essrig
John Tyler Evans
Peter Flint
Alex Freeman
Melitta George
Dick Geyerman
Stephen Green
Bonnie Grzeskowiak
Edward Harsh
John A. Haugen, in memory
of Marie Pauline Anderson
Steve Heitzeg
Christina Hemphill
Julie & Anders Himmelstrup
Christopher Hoh
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Monica (Niki) Houghton
David Hunter
Lila & Harry Jacob
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John Kightlinger
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Marvin Lamb
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Eileen O'Shaughnessy
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Barbara A. Petersen
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Lawrence M. Redmond
John & Betty Reichert

Barbara Rice
Janice Robbins, in memory
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Eugene C. Rogers
Nancy & Everett Rotenberry
Joseph Rubin
Michael & Shirley Santoro,
in memory of Marie
Pauline Anderson
Thomas Schunn
Estelle Q. Sell
Corey Sevett
Judith Shatin
David F. Smith
James Stephenson
Frank Stubbs
Craig Swan
Roland Tec
David Evan Thomas
Janika Vandervelde
Osma Vänskä
Joseph Ward
Janis Weller
Sharon West
Thomas Whitman
Arlene Williams
Mark Winges
Elizabeth Wolff
Gernot Wolfgang
Luna Pearl Woolf
David Wrobel

Contributor (\$50 - \$99)

Heather Barringer
Laura J. Barton-Holding
Patrick F. Beckman
Charles Bestor
Alexander Blackburn
Anselm Blumer
Whitman P. Brown
Christopher Brunelle
Gloria Burrow, in memory
of Marie Pauline Anderson
Wayne Burrow, in memory
of Marie Pauline Anderson
Michael & Kathleen Croswell
Daniel G. Crozier, Jr.
Sylvia Moe Dyrhaug
Vecchione/Erdahl Duo
Michael P. Farley
T.G. Febonio
Karen Foote, in memory
of Marie Pauline Anderson
Billy Franklin
Thomas George
Daniel Strong Godfrey
Jonathon Grasse
Thomas & Marlene Guiffre,
in memory of Marie
Pauline Anderson
Neal Hagberg
Greg Harder
Anne Harney
Stan Harrison
Joseph Haspel
Marian & Warren Hoffman,
in memory of Marie
Pauline Anderson
Lois Hoyer
William Holab
Jason Kao Hwang
Ulysses S. James
Maria Jette

Jin Hi Kim
Michelle Kinney
Stephen & Lisa Kraft
Tania Leon
Binyang Li
Gordon E. Marsh
Daniel Morgenstern
Cecily Morse
Lawrence Moss
John Munholland
Peter & Karla Myers
Lucia Newell
Alice Parker
Bob Peskin
Stella Quaday, in memory
of Marie Pauline Anderson
Erin Rogers
Nancy & Pat Ryan,
in memory of Marie
Pauline Anderson
Robert Sieving
Linya Su
Steve Tibbetts
Sergey Volkov
Donald C. Willeke
James Willey

40th Anniversary Donors

Government, Corporate and Foundation Support

HRK Foundation
Katherine B. Andersen Fund
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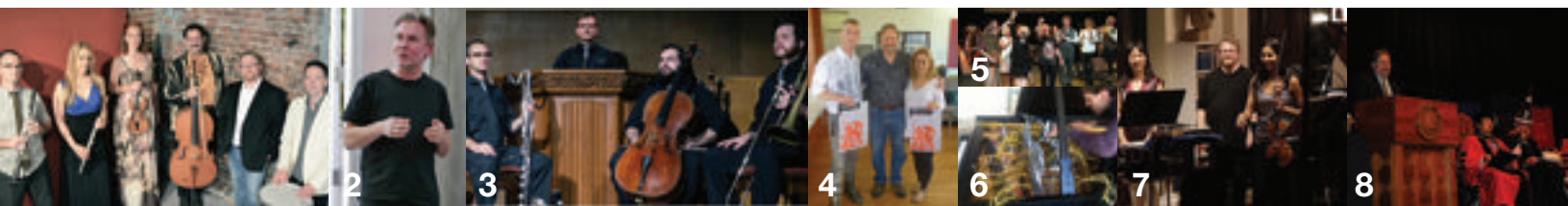
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Polly Nyberg
Phillip Rhodes
Denise Rippentrop
Kathleen von Bergen
James Wafler
Anonymous

CHAPTER ACTIVITY

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER ■ Sponsored a composition competition for the 2015 Southern California Viola Society's ViolaFest at the Colburn School ■ Presented two workshops with Philip Blackburn of innova, and sponsored a presentation by Dutch composing duo Jeroen Stijbos and Rob van Rijswijk at the LA Composers Salon ■ The *Making Music* education program continued with a 12-week high school composition course at Marshall Academy in Pasadena. Ten participants wrote pieces for performance by a professional string quartet

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER ■ Awarded \$27,000 for four *Community Partners* grantees ■ Collaborated with City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program on "If You Could Hear These Walls" ■ 1 concert of music by Philadelphia's women composers ■ 1 workshop on the music of Ornette Coleman

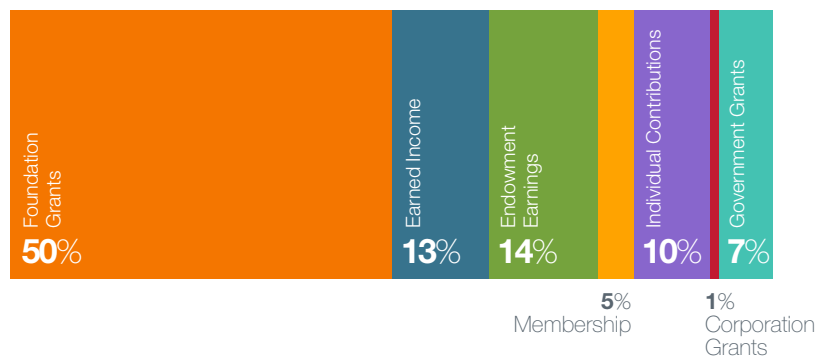


1: ACFLA has a close partnership with Brightwork, one of LA's hottest new music ensembles. 2: Conductor and composer Esa Pekka Salonen speaks at the Santa Monica fundraiser for the 2015 Hear Now Festival. Photo by Hugh Levick. 3: Gnarwhallaby's LA concerts are fun and full of interesting explorations of new music. 4: innova director Phillip Blackburn, ACFLA president Jack Van Zandt, and board member Giovanna Imbesi at Blackburn's ACFLA-sponsored workshop at Tuttomedia, Venice. Photo by Steven Homestead. 5: LA composer and ACF board member Anne LeBaron takes a bow after a REDCAT performance by Partch and *wildUp* of portions of her opera, *LSD*. Photo by Adam Borecki. 6: Andrew McPherson adjusting his magnetic resonator piano for a People Inside Electronics (PIE) concert in LA that was supported by ACFLA. Photo by Adam Borecki. 7: The Varied Trio performs a concert in Villa Aurora. Photo by Adam Borecki. 8: ACFLA president Jack Van Zandt giving the keynote speech at the 2015 graduation ceremony of the College of Creative Studies at University of California Santa Barbara. Photo courtesy of UCSB.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

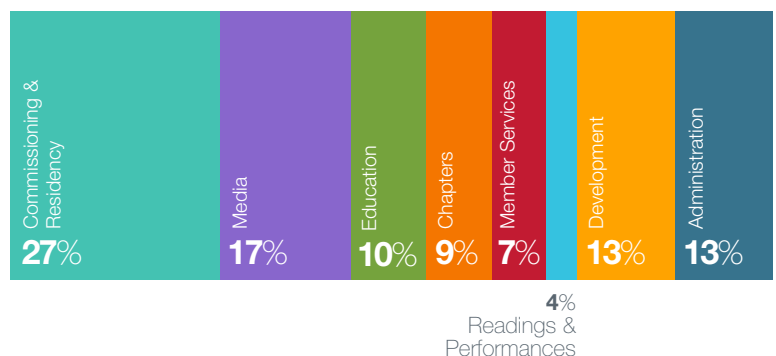
Income

Foundation Grants	\$860,144
Government Grants	122,659
Individual Contributions	173,972
Corporation Grants	12,705
Membership	91,815
Endowment Earnings	240,915
Earned Income	215,046
Total Operations Income	\$1,717,256



Expense

Commissioning and Residency	\$447,796
Readings and Performances	68,898
Education	172,031
Media	291,855
Chapters	147,143
Member Services	115,106
Administration	210,573
Development	216,252
Total Operations Expense	\$1,669,654



PROGRAMS



Birmingham, AL:

BAMA Listening Party & Scotch Tasting

Boston, MA:

Talkabout—Black Composers

Chester, MT:

Live from the Middle of Nowhere

Chicago, IL:

The New American Quartet

Dallas, TX:

The Spontaneous Sessions

Falls Church, VA:

DC Area National Composers Night Out Party

Fort Myers, FL:

FGCU Composers Guild National Composer Night Out Celebration

Jackson, MS:

ACF at 40 – Mississippi Style

Kennewick, WA:

River Bend Symposium

Kenosha, WI:

Music of the Mind

Long Island City, NY:

Queens New Music Festival & the Secret Theatre Opening Night

Memphis, TN:

Luna Nova 40th Birthday Party for ACF

Minneapolis, MN:

Composer's Night Out House Performance

Moorestown, NJ:

Charlotte Composer's Party

Nevada City, CA:

National Composers Night

New York, NY:

A Night Out with Composer Arturo O'Farrill and Composers Collective

New York, NY:

Composer's Concordance Hang

New York, NY:

Theatrical Songs: Words and Music

Oakland, CA:

Three Notes of Infinite Modes: A C F

Philadelphia, PA:

Composer's Happy Hour

Pittsburgh, PA:

Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble's National Composer's Night Out

Portland, OR:

Cascadia New Music Night

Prescott, AZ:

Arizona Composer Pot-Luck

Raleigh, NC:

Three Piano Extravaganza

Reno, NV:

Graduate Student Composer's Showcase

Rockford, IL:

National Composer Night Out: Rockford Edition

Salt Lake City, UT:

An Evening with Prince and Willis

Sartell, MN:

Saint Cloud Area Composer Concert

Syracuse, NY:

Society for New Music Gala Event

Vicksburg, MS:

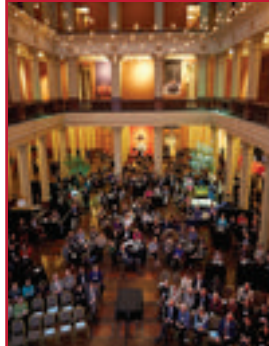
Sunset River Meditation (Vicksburg, MS)

West Hartford, CT:

Connecticut Composers Inc. Member's Concert

West Palm Beach, FL:

Art After Dark at Norton Museum



In 2015, the American Composers Forum marked 40 years of bringing new music to life. From its early days on the campus of the University of Minnesota through today, ACF has a rich history of granting programs, readings, salons and residencies that support the creation of new work and connect composers to communities. Throughout the year, ACF celebrated its past, present, and looked forward into the future.

The celebration culminated on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the Landmark Center with 400 guests including composers, performers, donors/funders, partnering organizations and listeners. The evening featured over 100 performers, including Minnesota Boychoir, VocalEssence, University of Minnesota Brass Quintet, Orange Mighty Trio and Jelloslave.

The St. Paul event acted as headquarters for our National Composer Night Out program—a multi-faceted event in communities across the country that links to a celebration at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. ACF built this unique platform to strengthen its national profile and with communities across the United States (and China!). Communities chose to participate and celebrate in their own unique way – from house performances to a Scotch tasting – by honoring those who make music. Each location connected both in spirit and through the social media using the hashtag #ACF40. ACF reached over a million people through these social media efforts.

40 YEARS OF IMPACT:

- **\$12.5 million** granted to composers and performers
- **\$960,000** in innova recording sales
- **1,325,000 students** reached with 28 pieces through *BandQuest®* and *ChoralQuest®*
- **132 McKnight Artist Fellowships** and 41 visiting composing residencies
- **357 new works commissioned** by Jerome Fund for New Music

EVENT SPONSORS

Mutual of America

Mairs & Power

CliftonLarsonAllen

Travelers

Summit Brewing Company

Copycats Hi-Fi Media

Thomas Liquors



The tweetwall itself
had an absolute reach
of **1,130,803**
people.

Facebook and Twitter combined:
May 14-15 alone, reach was 16,000,
and we increased our likes/followers
by 1,800.



ACF social media stats:

Follower % increase
(not including innova):

+30%



6,446 up from 4,013

+60%



234 up from 154

+52%



214 up from 170

+26%



11,755 up from 10,028

+17%

T Bayk (@taylorbayk) · May 14

Ladies and gentleman, the woman who taught me to listen to my own voice, Libby Larsen! #ACF40





Number of new
works created by
grants & programs
in 2015:

103



Number of people
who experienced
ACF's work
in 2015:

899,543

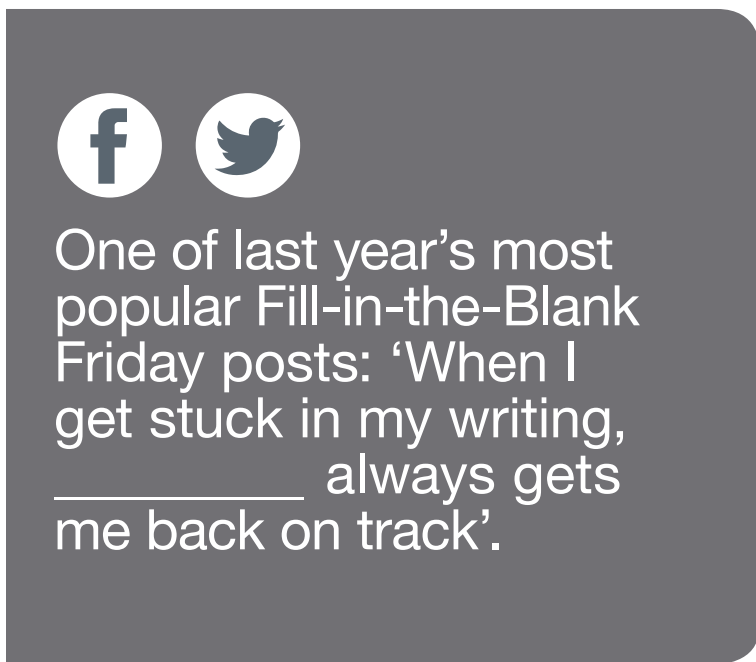


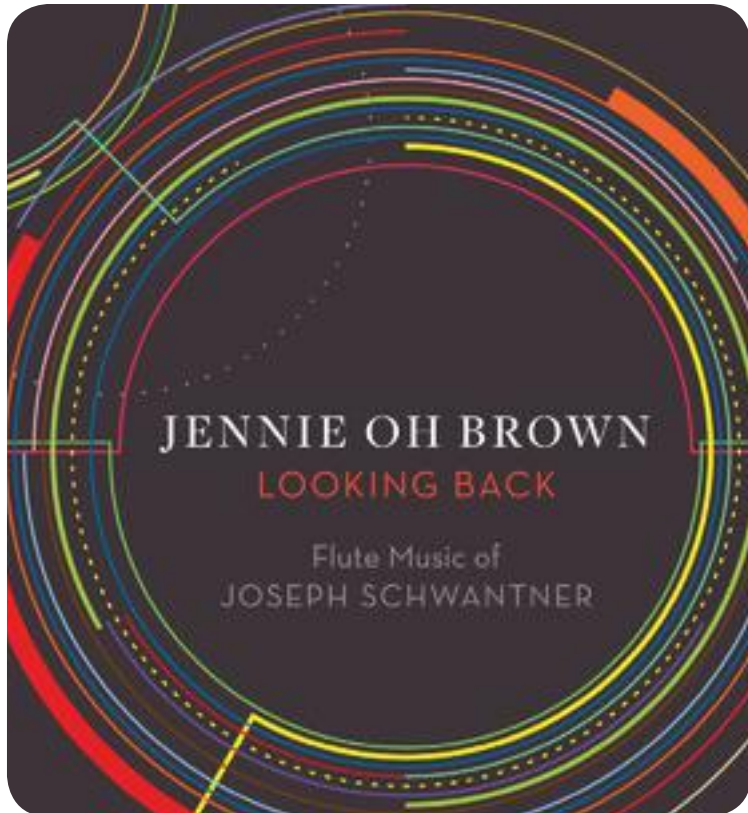
Number of works
commissioned
through Faith
Partners program:

372




AMERICAN
COMPOSERS
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innova social media stats:

 *Facebook:*
3,297 up from 3,149:
4.7% increase

 *YouTube:*
233 up from 170:
37% increase

 *Twitter:*
2,422 up from 1,600:
51% increase





Membership

1,990 members

at end of FY15 in all **50 states**
and **DC** plus **15 countries**

16 school group memberships, with
4 new schools added
in FY 2015:

*Harding University Department
of Music (Searcy, AR)*

*Manhattan School of Music
Roosevelt University*

*Chicago College of
Performing Arts*

*University of the Arts
– Philadelphia*





of impact:

- **\$12.5 million granted** to composers & performers
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