



connect

**with
the Association for the Advancement
of Creative Musicians (AACM)
and the
Great Black Music Ensemble**

Launched in 2017 with the celebrated Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble (PNME) and in 2018 with Roomful of Teeth, the ACF CONNECT program was developed to partner with prominent, top-quality ensembles, offering better commission fees, more time to work with performers, and significant learning/networking opportunities with industry professionals. Consistent with our mission, the program will support meaningful, long-lasting connections between composers, performers, audiences, and the local community where the ensemble is based.

For the 2019/2020 ACF CONNECT program we are partnering with the internationally renowned Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians™ (AACM), unparalleled contributors to modern music and inspirational leader within the cultural community since 1965. ACF partners with the AACM and the Great Black Music Ensemble to celebrate the AACM's 55th Anniversary!

Three selected composers who will represent diverse periods of an artistic life will have an opportunity to work with the ensemble over 13 months, culminating in a performance in Chicago during Fall 2020 as part of the AACM's 55th anniversary season. Selected composers will meet with industry leaders, new music professionals, and network with other composers and performers to create even more opportunities.

The American Composers Forum encourages applicants from the full range of musical styles, and is committed to supporting a diverse pool of artists whose work demonstrates strong artistic merit. Accordingly, awards for our programs will represent, as far as possible, artists and projects that are diverse in genre, gender, race, ethnicity and geography.

Three composers from the total applicant pool will be selected to participate in this highly engaging program. Each composer will receive a \$7,500 commission to write a piece for the Great Black Music Ensemble which will be work-shopped and performed by the ensemble in the Fall of 2020. Selected composers must be available in September 3 – 8, 2019 (Tuesday, September 3 & Sunday, September 8, 2019 are travel days) for introductory meetings to start working with AACM's Great Black Music Ensemble and in Fall 2020 (Specific dates for Fall 2020 TBD) for workshops, rehearsals, and premiere performance.

COMPETITION DETAILS AND SCHEDULE:

- Entries must be submitted electronically via the link below on or before **11:59 pm (Central) on June 1, 2019.**
 - Entries submitted by mail or means other than electronically through SlideRoom will not be eligible for consideration.
- Applicants will be notified of their status in early August 2019, and selected composers will be announced in early September 2019.
- Each will receive a \$7,500 commission to write a work (final length to be discussed and determined with the Artistic Directors of the Great Black Music Ensemble), scored for the ensemble.
 - **If working in a score format, score and parts will be due on or before May 1, 2020**
- Scores/parts created with music notation software are mandatory if working in a notated form (no handwritten materials are acceptable);
- Pieces using graphic notation are acceptable.

- The AACM's Great Black Music Ensemble introduction workshop will be held September 4 – 7, 2019 (Tuesday, September 3 & Sunday, September 8, 2019 are travel days) and the public performance (which will be recorded for archival purposes), workshops with ACF and AACM's Great Black Music Ensemble, and rehearsals will take place in the Fall of 2020 (Specific Date TBD). NOTE: participation in the workshop/performance is mandatory for the three composers in September 2019 & Fall of 2020.

AWARDS:

- Each of the three composers will receive a commission in the amount of \$7,500 plus housing, domestic transportation, and meals while attending the September 3 – 8, 2019 introductory workshops and the workshops, rehearsals, and performance in Fall of 2020.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

Who May Enter:

- The American Composers Forum encourages **applicants from the full range of musical styles** and is **committed to supporting a diverse pool of artists** whose work **demonstrates strong artistic merit**.
- Entries are invited **from composers of all ages and stages** in their artistic life.
- Applicant must be either a U.S. citizen or non-citizen lawfully and permanently residing, or studying full-time, in the United States.
- Travel will be provided to and from September 2019 & Fall of 2020 ACF CONNECT events from within the USA.
- Employees and board members of the American Composers Forum and their immediate family members may not enter the competition; and members of the Great Black Music Ensemble and their immediate family members are not eligible to enter.
- You do not have to be a member of the American Composers Forum to enter this contest.

- Composers selected for the 2017/2018 ACF CONNECT and the 2018/2019 ACF CONNECT programs are not eligible to apply for the 2019/2020 ACF CONNECT program.

HOW TO APPLY

There is no fee to enter the competition.

Complete the online application form, located here:

1. Composer's Personal Information (Questions 1 - 13):

Name, Address, Phone, Email Address, Website, Demographic Information

2. Artist's statement (Question 14): (Character Limit 3,500 with spaces)

The artist statement may take any of several directions, at your discretion: information about your background, the development of your work, your interests as an artist or your aesthetic position, your future artistic direction, or any other information you would like to present to the panel.

3. Working with AACM's Great Black Music Ensemble (Question 15): (Character Limit 3,500 with spaces) A brief description of your interest in writing a piece for the Great Black Music Ensemble.

4. Three Musical Work Samples (Questions 16 – 45):

Up to three audio/and or video work samples totaling no more than 12-minutes total of your music. The work samples you provide do not need to be for the instrumentation of the Great Black Music Ensemble. For each sample you will have the ability to list cue start and end times so that you can provide a complete work but point the panelists to specific areas of a longer work that you would like for them to review. There will be two rounds of adjudication. During the first round panelists will listen to three minutes of your first work sample (You can provide cue start and stop times). In the second round, panelists will listen to no more than 12-minutes of music between the three work samples submitted. Three work samples must be provided.

- Work Sample 1** makes the most critical impression on the panelists, and should represent your most distinctive and compelling musical example. Panelists will listen to three-minutes of this work in the first round. If you wish them to start at a cue point other than the beginning, please indicate the start time for the cue in Question Works Sample 1 - Cue Start Time.

- ii. **Work Sample 2 & 3** should be other works.

If you work in a notated format, provide PDFs of three scores (up to 10MB each) and web links to the corresponding audio or video. If the PDF of your score is larger than 10 MB, a space will be given for you to provide a web link to the larger file. Written scores are required unless they are inappropriate to your compositional style. For improvised performance, please clearly describe the nature of your involvement as the composer in the creation of the piece in a document uploaded or hosted in the link provided.

Provide web links to your musical samples (SoundCloud, YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive, etc.). Make sure web links you provide in this application remain active and unchanged until September 30, 2019. If you do not wish for your work samples to be public, please make them unlisted so the committee will still have access.

Great Black Music Ensemble's Instrumentation for Fall 2020 Performance

Musician 1: Soprano, Alto, and Tenor Saxophones, Clarinet, and Percussion

Musician 2: Flute, Alto Flute, and Male Vocals

Musician 3: Flute, Bass Flute, and Acoustic Bass

Musician 4: Cornet and Electronics

Musician 5: All trombones

Musician 6: Acoustic Bass

Musician 7: Piano

Musician 8: Tenor Sax

Musician 9: Female Vocals

Musician 10: B-flat Trumpet, Flugelhorn, and Percussion

Musician 11: Drums

Musician 12: Electric Guitar

Musician 13: Congas and Bongos

Musician 14: Violin

Musician 15: Violin

Musician 16: Viola

Musician 17: Cello

Selection Process:

- Members of the AACM will review submissions for the 2019/2020 ACF CONNECT program in consultation with ACF staff to determine the three selected composers.

- Applicants will be notified of their status in early August 2019, and selected composers will be announced in early September 2019.

Application Deadline, Award, and Information:

- Applications must be submitted electronically on or before 11:59 pm (Central) on June 1, 2019. Late applications will not be considered.
- All performance, copyright, and royalty rights of the finalists' and the winning piece remain with the composers.

For more information and inquires contact:

William J. Lackey, DMA

Vice President of Programs

American Composers Forum

wlackey@composersforum.org

Office Phone: 651.251.2833