



# 2020 McKnight Fellowships for Composers



## GUIDELINE INFORMATION

The American Composers Forum is pleased to announce the 2020 McKnight Fellowships for Composers. This program is made possible by the generous support of the McKnight Foundation.

The McKnight Foundation's Arts program is one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the country. Established in 1981, the McKnight Artist Fellowships provide annual, unrestricted cash awards to outstanding mid-career Minnesota artists in fourteen areas. Twelve arts organizations oversee the administration of the fellowships and structure their own program to respond to the unique challenges of different creative disciplines: book artists, ceramic artists, choreographers, composers, community – engaged practice artists, dancers, fiber artists, media artists, performing musicians, playwrights, printmakers, theater arts, visual arts, and writers; administered respectively by the Minnesota Center for Books, Northern Clay Center, The Cowles Center, American Composers Forum, Pillsbury House Theatre, Textile Center, FILMN<sup>°</sup>RTH, MacPhail Center for Music, The Playwrights' Center, Highpoint Center for Printmaking, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and The Loft.

**ONLINE APPLICATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 (11:59 PM Central)**

### **PURPOSE**

The intent of this program is to recognize and support midcareer artists living and working in Minnesota who demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- You have or maintain Minnesota residency for at least one year prior to application and for the duration of the fellowship year. You must have a US Social Security Number or US Tax ID.
- You are midcareer with a body of work that demonstrates a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence.
- You can only apply to one McKnight Artist Fellowship artistic discipline within a year.
- You have not been a recipient of a McKnight Artist Fellowship within any artistic discipline in the last five years. Recipients of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 McKnight Fellowships in any discipline are not eligible.
- You must demonstrate growth and on going artistry since your most recent McKnight Artist Fellowship.
- You are not staff, board, or immediate family of the McKnight Foundation or fellowship administrative partners. See the list of all partner organizations named above.
- You may not be enrolled full-time in an academic program.

## **AWARDS**

- Four fellowships of \$25,000 in unrestricted funds will be awarded. Awards are subject to state and federal income tax guidelines.
- Fellows also have an opportunity to work for one month in one of three artist residency communities partnering with the American Composers Forum or fellows can create a self-designed professional development project in lieu of participating in one of the three artist residency communities. Each project or residency will be planned in consultation with ACF's Vice President of Programs. ACF will allot planning for this residency occurs during the fellowship year, and Fellows have up to two years to implement the plan. The budget for the residency or self-designed professional development project is up to \$2,500 and up to \$500 in travel. These funds will go directly to the residency program.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

The McKnight Fellowships for Composers provide recognition for midcareer music creators working in any genre. The program is designed to award artists whose work is of exceptional artistic craft, who have created a substantial body of work over a period of time, and who are at a career stage that is beyond emerging.

A panel of three music creators from outside Minnesota selected for their familiarity with diverse genres of music will review applications and select fellowship recipients. Applicants are evaluated and selected based on the quality of their work as evidenced in submitted materials, most importantly work samples and body of work. Consideration is given to accomplishments to date, promise for continued development, impact the fellowship will have on the artist, sustained contribution to the creator's artistic field and to Minnesota's arts ecosystem.

The American Composers Forum staff members who oversee the McKnight Fellowship program do not contribute to the decision-making process or the selection of the McKnight Composer Fellows. The role of the staff is to provide clarity for the review process and to ensure that the panel's review and the discussions proceed in accordance with the program guidelines.

### **Key Evaluation Criteria:**

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

### **Artistic craft:**

- Strong sense of the creator's voice
- Technical proficiency necessary to achieve the desired results
- Quality of work samples (Quality is always defined by a cultural context)

**The applicant has clearly reached the mid-career stage (or beyond) as evidenced by:**

- Significant body of work
- Creative Achievement
- Sustained contribution to your artistic field and to Minnesota's arts ecosystem.

## **NOTIFICATION**

The panel's decision will be announced in June, 2020. Results will be posted on ACF's website and applicants will be notified by email. After the 2020 McKnight Fellowships for Composers and Visiting Composer Residencies are announced, all applicants will have the opportunity to setup a phone appointment with ACF's Vice President of Programs for comments from the panelists.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Complete the online application form, located here:

<https://composersforum.org/program/mcknight-composer-fellowship>

### **1. Composer's Personal Information (Questions 1 - 12):**

Name, Address, Phone, Email Address, Website

### **2. Questions Regarding Eligibility & Past Participation (Questions 13 - 18):**

A series of questions to confirm your eligibility for this program and past participation.

### **3. Artist's statement (Question 19 or 20) (Link to 3.5 – 4-minute video (Q19) OR typed answer (Q20) of maximum 4,000 characters, including 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.

**4. Insights into your artistic experiences (Question 21: Two-pages maximum – PDF only – up to 10MB)** This can be a biography, a list of 10 artistic experiences that have shaped you as a musician, or a resume. We would like this document to enhance your artistic statement and provide further insights into your creation of music. If you choose to list a set of 10 artistic experiences, please go deeper into details on two of the most important experiences out of the ten experiences.

**5. A complete works list (Question 22: PDF only – up to 10MB)** For each of your works include the title, year created, approximate duration of work, instrumentation, year of the premiere, performer or ensemble that premiered the work.

### **6. Three Work Samples (Questions 23 – 54)**

Provide three audio/and or video work samples totaling no more than 30-minutes of your original music. At least one of your work samples should be of a work you composed in the last three years. Keep in mind that work samples should support the criteria of the program. If you have previously received a McKnight Fellowship, concentrate your work samples on the period of time since your last award. For each sample list cue start and end times. 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.

Written scores are not required to be provided unless using written or graphic notation is how you communicate your music to performers. For electronic, improvised, and other methods of creating music please clearly describe the nature of your involvement in the creation of the piece in a document uploaded or hosted in the link provided. If notated scores are part of your creative process, provide PDFs of scores (up to 10MB each) corresponding to the audio or video samples you submitted. 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.

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 June 30, 2020. If you do not wish for your work samples to be public, please make them unlisted so the committee will still have access.

- a. Work Sample 1 makes the most critical impression on the panelists, and should represent your most distinctive and compelling musical example. Panelists will listen up to five-minutes of this work in the first round. Indicate the start and end times for the cue for the first round in Questions 26 & 27: Works Sample 1 – First Round Cue Start and End Times. If selected for the second round and you wish the panelists to listen to a different segment of your first sample, please indicate the section in start and end times for the cue for the second round in Questions 28 & 29: Works Sample 1 – Second Round Cue Start and End Times. (Example: An applicant for work sample 1 submits a 10-minute work sample as part of the 30-minutes to be reviewed by the panel. In the first round, the applicant provides the cue start time as 0 (the beginning) and cue end time 5 min. If selected for the second round, the applicant has indicated a second round cue start time as 5 min and sound round cue end time as 10 min.)
- b. Work Samples 2 & 3 should be complementary works you created.

For each work sample you will be asked to provide the Cue Start and End Times, Title, Duration, Year of Completion, Ensemble/Name(s) of Performer(s), Instrumentation. You may also give other pertinent information you feel will be helpful to the panel, such as how it fits into your body of work and why you chose to submit this particular sample (3000 characters with spaces).

### **7. Composer's Demographic Information (Questions 55 - 56)**

Providing this information is optional. The American Composers Forum strives to include applicants from the full range of musical styles, and is committed to supporting a diverse pool of artists in genre, gender identity, race, ethnicity, and geography. Sharing your information helps us know how we are doing and where we might improve our efforts.

### **8. Questions regarding social media, information sessions, and how you learned about this opportunity. (Questions 57-59)**

### **9. Acknowledgement of Terms and Conditions (Questions 60)**

By applying, you attest:

- to the accuracy of the information supplied in the application.
- application materials submitted is the applicants sole and original work.
- understand the purpose and conditions of the McKnight Composer Fellowship program and to your acceptance to them should you be selected as a fellow.
- you are eligible for the competition, and that you will notify the American Composers Forum's Vice President of Programs if you become ineligible prior to the conclusion of the competition.
- Providing false or misleading information on this application, or failing in any other way to comply with the rules will subject you to disqualification and forfeiture of the fellowship.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- Entries must be submitted electronically on or before 11:59 PM Central on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.
- Late applications will not be considered.
- Entries submitted by mail or means other than the provided online application process will not be eligible for consideration.

### **INFORMATION SESSIONS**

#### **IN PERSON INFORMATION SESSION**

We will host a 90-minute in person McKnight Composer Fellowship application information session Saturday, February 15 from 11:00 – 12:30 AM in the American Composers Forum's office (Landmark Center 5<sup>th</sup> floor, 75 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 522, Saint Paul, MN 55102). RSVP for this in person information event by 5PM CST Monday, February 10, 2020. RSVP [HERE](#).

#### **ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS**

William will conduct three 90-minute 2020 McKnight Composers Fellowship Application Workshops online to go over the application process. These sessions will be offered online via Zoom.

Zoom video tutorials can be found here:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>

#### **McKnight Fellowship for Composers Information Session Dates and Times**

Tuesday, February 20, 2020: 2:00 – 3:30 PM CST      Register [HERE](#) for this date.

Monday, March 2, 2020: 6:00 – 7:30 PM CST      Register [HERE](#) for this date.

If you are not able to participate in one of the online session you are welcome to schedule one-on-one meeting in person at the ACF office or over the phone, with William Lackey about your application before completing it online. To schedule a meeting, please call 651.251.2833 or e-mail [wlackey@composersforum.org](mailto:wlackey@composersforum.org)

### **RESOURCES FOR UNLISTED LINKS:**

SoundCloud:

<http://shareandembed.help.soundcloud.com/customer/portal/articles/2167144-sharing-a-private-track-or-playlist-within-soundcloud>

Vimeo: <https://help.vimeo.com/hc/en-us/articles/224818307-Basic-membership>

YouTube: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/157177?hl=en>

Google Drive: <https://support.google.com/drive/answer/2494822?hl=en>

### **QUESTIONS**

William J. Lackey, Vice President of Programs  
at 651.251.2833 or e-mail [wlackey@composersforum.org](mailto:wlackey@composersforum.org)