



2020 McKnight Visiting Composer Residency Program

GUIDELINE INFORMATION *Updated March 13, 2020*

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

ONLINE APPLICATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 (11:59 PM Central)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- The American Composers Forum will select up to two music creators for an artistic residency in Minnesota.
- Artists work with the ACF team to design and produce a residency that integrates with the Minnesota community in a unique way.
- Visiting composers spend approximately 40 days in Minnesota over an 18-month period, building relationships and working on projects.
- New work may be part of the residency, but the focus is on the exploration of an artist within a Minnesota community. ACF believes in the power of music creators to be storytellers, connectors, or catalysts through their art. This program invites artists to respond to or reflect on the unique qualities of people and communities in our home state.

SELECTION 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.

Panelists will assess the:

- Creative potential, imagination, and effectiveness of the proposed project.
- Consistent quality of applicant's previous work.
- Anticipated value of the residency project for the composer's artistic work and ensemble and/or designated community.

Community partner(s) support email or letter is required from your project partner(s). You will have until Friday, May 8, 2020 to submit an email or a letter from your partner. Please email these to Billy Lackey at wlackey@composersforum.org. The panel is interested in why you want to collaborate with your project partner(s) and how it will benefit them as well as your own artistic trajectory.

AWARDS

Up to two residencies of \$10,000 will be awarded. All funds are distributed directly to the selected composer across four installments. Awards are subject to state and federal income tax guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY

- Composers/music creators working in any style are encouraged to apply.
- You must be living outside Minnesota.
- You must have a US Social Security Number or US Tax ID.
- You are not staff, board, or immediate family of the McKnight Foundation or fellowship administrative partners. The administrative partners are Minnesota Center for Books, Northern Clay Center, The Cowles Center, American Composers Forum, Pillsbury House Theatre, Textile Center, FILMN[°]RTH, MacPhail Center for Music, The Playwrights' Center, Highpoint Center for Printmaking, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and The Loft.
- You may not be enrolled full-time in an academic program.
- Recipients of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 McKnight Visiting Composer Residency and/or McKnight Fellowships *in any discipline* are not eligible.
- Composers do not have to be American Composers Forum members to apply.

SELECTION PROCESS

A panel of three creative artists from outside Minnesota chosen for their familiarity with diverse genres of music will review applications and, in consultation with ACF staff, will select residency recipients.

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 feedback from the panelists.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the online application form, located here:

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

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

Name, Address, Phone, Email Address, Website

2. Questions Regarding Eligibility (Questions 13 - 15):

Questions to confirm your eligibility for this program.

3. Project proposal (Questions 16 or 17: Link to 6 – 7-minute video (Q16) or typed answer (Q17) 6,000-characters, including spaces)

The project proposal should include a detailed description of your proposed residency activities while you are in Minnesota, including your interaction with the community you've chosen, why you seek to work in Minnesota, and an explanation of the anticipated value of the residency for you and that community.

4. Artist's statement (Questions 18 or 19: Link to 3.5 – 4-minute video (Q18) or typed answer (Q19) of maximum 4,000-characters, including spaces)

A statement explaining the development of your work, your interests as an artist or your aesthetic position, why the residency you've designed would be valuable to you, and any other information you would like to present to the panel.

5. Insights into your artistic experiences (Questions 20: 4,000-character limit including spaces) This can be a biography or a list of 10 artistic experiences that have shaped you as an artist. 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.

6. Support materials (Question 21: Web link to materials)

Letter(s) of support/commitment are required from your project partner(s), you will have until Friday, May 8, 2020 to submit an email or letter from your partner. Please email these to Billy Lackey at wlackey@composersforum.org.

7. Three Work Samples (Questions: 22 – 50)

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 and your project proposal. 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.

Provide three scores for the corresponding audio/video via web links. 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 samples (SoundCloud, YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive, etc.). Make sure web links you provide in this application remain active and unchanged until June 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.

- i.* 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 24 & 25: 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 26 & 27: 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.)

- ii. Work Samples 2 & 3 should be complementary works you created

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

8. Composer's Demographic Information (Questions 51 - 52)

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.

9. Questions regarding social media, information sessions, and how you learned about this opportunity. (Questions 53 – 55)

10. Acknowledgement of Terms and Conditions (Questions 56)

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 Compo 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 via the link below on or before **11:59 PM Central on Tuesday, March 24, 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.
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RESOURCES FOR UNLISTED LINKS:

SoundCloud:

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

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 651.317.9441 or e-mail wlackey@composersforum.org