

2009 Jerome Composers Commissioning Program



AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM

The Jerome Composers Commissioning Program (JCCP), funded by the Jerome Foundation, supports the creation of new musical works by emerging composers, composer/performers, improvisers and sound artists. JCCP helps towards the cost of the creator's commissioning fee. A composer applies in conjunction with a performing organization (which may be any soloist or group, not necessarily a non-profit organization). Alternatively, composer/performer/improvisers who play in their own work apply in conjunction with a venue or presenter (e.g., school, theater, gallery, festival...).

JCCP welcomes applications in all musical genres, including jazz, experimental, classical, improvised, sound-art and international styles, and seeks to expand new-music culture beyond the usual settings.

For more information about the Jerome Composers Commissioning Program, call Craig Carnahan at 651-251-2833, e-mail ccarnahan@composersforum.org, or visit our Web site at www.composersforum.org.

Eligibility

- Only emerging composers may apply. "Emerging" composers are at an early stage in their careers, with as-yet little peer recognition, no national reputation (as determined by prior performances and awards), and limited professional opportunities. JCCP is intended to be among a composer's first commissions and represent a significant career boost. Favor will be shown towards composers who demonstrate potential and are taking a risk with the proposed project. These distinctions are relative, so we ask you to state how this project will advance your career.
- Composers residing in Minnesota or in the five boroughs of New York City may apply with performers based anywhere in the world. Composers residing elsewhere must work with Minnesota-based partners and present the work in Minnesota (a list of Minnesota performers is available on the ACF web site.). Similar geographic restrictions apply for composer/performers applying in conjunction with a presenter. All applicants may also consider forming a consortium to include Minnesota participants.
- Although ACF membership is not required to apply, applicants are strongly encouraged to join. If awarded, participants are required to join.
- Composers or performers may take a leading role in only one application per year.
- Composers or performers selected for JCCP awards in the last two years (2007 or 2008) are ineligible this year.
- All previous JCCP projects must be completed before a composer or performer may reapply.
- JCCP administrative staff may not apply.
- No formal musical training is required. Currently enrolled students may apply only if they can show some professional performances of their work.
- A composer may apply in conjunction with an ensemble resident at a place of worship, provided the work is not premiered during a religious service.

Selection Criteria

- A high level of composer's and performer's musical ability, and evidence of the composer's personal voice, as demonstrated by submitted materials.
- The significance of the commission to the composer's career development.
- The commitment shown by the performer or presenter to promote the new work, i.e. multiple performances, recordings, broadcasts, creative publicity, and educational outreach, etc.
- Proposals must be complete and show well-considered compositional and performance planning.

Additional Information

- JCCP will grant up to \$8,000 towards the composer's commission fee. The fee should reflect the duration of the work, the size of the performing forces, an estimate of the composition time needed and the cost of producing scores/parts when necessary. ACF does not provide a standard fee schedule. Applicants will not be penalized for requesting too much or too little. Panelists reserve the right to adjust fees for comparable projects.
- If JCCP funds do not cover the entire cost of the commission, we encourage the partners to pursue other funding sources to supplement the composer's fee. For projects whose total budget exceeds \$8,000, a letter of commitment for the performer/venue to secure extra funds is required.

- Composers who are also performers in the proposed work must apply with a presenter (venue, e.g., theater, concert series, gallery, school...) and submit a letter of commitment from the presenter stating an anticipated performance date and location.
- JCCP projects must be completed within five years of the date of the award.
- Works must be in the early stages of composing at the time of application: works to premiere before November 2009 will not be considered.

Judging Procedure

Staff will review all applications for eligibility and completeness. There will be a panel of three professional musicians familiar with diverse genres of contemporary music. They will remain anonymous until after the selection process. Panelists receive copies of all written materials as well as recorded samples to review before they meet in St. Paul to make their final selection. JCCP awards are generally announced in October.

How to Apply

Composer's materials:

- A maximum of two clearly-labeled recordings (CD or DVD) of works you have composed in the last three years. Recording #1 should begin with a 4-minute sample of your most characteristic and compelling music. Highlighted excerpts or a section of a longer work are acceptable. This may be followed by a complete work. It is preferred that you include all works with separate track IDs on a single disc.
- A work sample sheet, listing the names of the works presented, year they were composed and the name(s) of the performer
- Two written scores, preferably matching the works on the recordings, marked with the date of composition. Written scores are required unless they are inappropriate to your compositional style. In the case of improvised performance, state the nature of the composer's involvement.
- A one-page personal statement articulating the development and direction of your work, aesthetic position, and the significance of this commission at this time. Bearing in mind that JCCP is intended for emerging composers who have yet to establish themselves on the wider musical scene, state how you consider yourself to be "emerging" and how this project represents a musical and professional step forward.
- A description of the proposed composition that includes duration, instrumentation, and other ideas regarding the work.
- An artist resume or current bio (two pages maximum).
- The JCCP Application Form.
- If you want materials returned, please enclose a check (payable to ACF) sufficient to cover return postage. Packets with postage will be returned to the composer (rather than the performer/presenter) unless otherwise requested.
- A self-addressed, stamped postcard for acknowledgement of receipt of your materials (optional).

Performing Ensemble or Presenter's materials (may be sent under separate cover):

- A letter of commitment indicating the ensemble's intention to perform (or the venue's plans to present) the work and the number of anticipated performances in addition to the premiere, as well as any recording, review or broadcast possibilities.
- Support materials documenting previous work. Materials may include but are not limited to concert programs, CDs, DVDs, brochures, recent reviews, etc.
- A description of the premiere, including the anticipated date, time, and place. If there are plans for any additional events surrounding the premiere, i.e. a pre-concert talk by the composer, workshops, open rehearsals, etc., please include the details of these activities.

Application Deadline: Saturday, August 1, 2009 (postmark). Send materials to:

Craig Carnahan, JCCP
 American Composers Forum
 332 Minnesota Street, E-145
 St. Paul, MN 55101-1300 USA



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2009 Jerome Composers Commissioning Program Application Form

Name: _____ ACF member? _____

Address: _____

City, State/ZIP: _____

Phone/email: _____

Performer(s): _____ ACF member? _____

Contact name: _____

Address: _____

City, State/ZIP: _____

Phone/email: _____

Presenter: _____ ACF member? _____
if applicable

Contact name: _____

Address: _____

City, State/ZIP: _____

Phone/email: _____

Request to JCCP: _____ Full cost of commission: _____
</= \$8,000

Checklist

_____ this application form

_____ recordings

_____ scores/number: _____

_____ resume/bio

_____ artist statement

_____ work sample sheet

_____ partner letter of intent and supporting materials

_____ optional return postage check

_____ other (please specify): _____

_____ I am an ACF member.

_____ I would like to join ACF (Check www.composersforum.org/join for details.)