



AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM, PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

2001 North 13th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122

Websites: <http://acfphiladelphia.org/> • <http://www.newmusicphiladelphia.com>

New Voices FY11 Guidelines

Introduction and Purpose

New Voices offers emerging composers the opportunity to have new works rehearsed, performed, and recorded by professional performing ensembles. Past partners include Dolce Suono Chamber Music Concert Series, Network for New Music, and Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia.

For the FY11 New Voices project, ACF Philadelphia will collaborate with International Opera Theater to give seven member composers an opportunity to gain practical experience in writing an opera, resulting in a new opera production to be premiered in November 2010 at Prince Music Theater in Philadelphia.

Seven local composers will be selected to write short opera vignettes (approx. 15 minutes) for four vocalists (lyric soprano, mezzo, lyric tenor, baritone) and six instrumentalists (flute doubling piccolo; clarinet doubling bass clarinet; violin doubling viola; cello; piano; one percussionist) based on seven novellas from *The Decameron*, a collection of 100 novellas written in the 14th century by Italian author Giovanni Boccaccio.

Applicants will be notified of the decision by late April 2010. The libretto texts (in Italian) will be assigned after the panel selects the winning composers. Participating composers will have up to five months to complete their works before rehearsals begin in October 2010. Composers must agree to participate in two rehearsals (minimum) and attend the performances.

IOT is currently working on an international aspect of the program, in which four arias from four composers will be used in a singing competition and recorded in Italy by a 50 piece orchestra: Orchestra Filarmonica Veneta di Legnago. Composers will need to submit their arias by June 28, 2010 in order for their music to be included in the Italian competition.

New Voices gives emerging composers the opportunity to: 1) Connect with professional performers of new music; 2) Hear carefully rehearsed renditions of their work; 3) Exchange views with performers on aesthetic, technical and interpretive issues; 4) Introduce their works to new audiences through concert performances; and 5) Procure a high-quality recording to represent and market their work.

About International Opera Theater

Based in Philadelphia and Citta della Pieve, Italy, International Opera Theater encourages self-discovery and open avenues of communication between diverse populations, through the creation of new theatrical works and the revitalization of old, especially operas. In the past six years, IOT has produced six world premiere operas based on Shakespearean texts. Founder and Artistic Director Karen Saillant has 40 plus years creating, directing, producing and performing in classic and original works of art, as well as training others to perform in them.

Eligibility

Individual composers residing or working in the Philadelphia region are eligible to apply (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or Philadelphia Counties in PA and Camden County in NJ).

Applicants need not be members of the American Composers Forum to apply; however, artists who are selected must become ACF members and remain ACF members for the duration of the project. To join ACF online, visit www.composersforum.org/join.

Criteria

An independent panel of local composers, accomplished instrumentalists, music educators, and/or other music industry-professionals will review and judge all eligible proposals on:

- Artistic merit
- Significance of the project to the applicant's career
- Demonstrated ability of the artist to carry out the project
- The clarity and persuasiveness of the application in supporting the criteria listed above.

Work Samples

Grantees should submit scores and audio samples of their work, including at least one vocal composition and one chamber composition. Audio samples will be accepted on one CD only. Please include a detailed track listing and cues, if appropriate. MP3 files will not be accepted.

Evaluation

Grantees must submit a Final Report within six weeks of the project's conclusion. Composers with overdue Final Reports will not be eligible for additional grants/opportunities until the Final Report is submitted.

Deadline

Applications, including all required attachments, are due **March 15, 2010** (postmark deadline). Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants will be notified of the decision approx. 4 to 6 weeks after the deadline.

Questions? Contact:

James Falconi, Program Manager, 267-639-2518; james@acfphiladelphia.org

Composers are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposal with staff prior to submitting a proposal.

New Voices is made possible with generous support from the William Penn Foundation.

Application Guidelines

Proposals should be typed and include the following (in order):

- 1) A cover page, signed by the composer, with:
 - Applicant Contact Information: Name, address, phone, and email
 - Composer Rights Affiliation (ASCAP, BMI, etc.)
 - ACF Membership Status (active, expired, etc.)
- 2) A two-page essay addressing the following:
 - Your interest in opera
 - Your experience in writing for opera
 - Why you want to write for opera
 - Your ability to write a short opera scene for four vocalists and six instrumentalists
- 3) One-page bio or resume of the composer highlighting academic and/or professional credentials
- 4) Letter of recommendation (optional)
- 5) Sample of composer's work (submit one copy only)

Any additional materials the applicant wishes to supply should be attached as appendices following the above.

Applications, including all required attachments, are due **March 15, 2010** (postmark deadline). Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please submit five copies (one original plus four copies) of your proposal on three-holed paper to:

James Falconi, Program Manager
American Composers Forum, Philadelphia Chapter
2001 North 13th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Please do not bind or staple your application. Thank you!