

St. Louis Music Teachers Association
Friday, September 9, 2016

“Playing and Teaching the Music of Our Time”
Professor Teresa McCollough, piano

NEW MUSIC RESOURCES:

ORGANIZATIONS:

American Composers Forum

322 Minnesota Street, #E-145
St. Paul, MN 55105-1300, USA
Tel: 651-228-1407

Email: mail@composersforum.org
<https://composersforum.org>

The American Composers Forum is committed to supporting composers and developing new markets for their music. Through granting, commissioning, and performance programs, the Forum provides composers at all stages of their careers with valuable resources for professional and artistic development. By linking communities with composers and performers, the Forum fosters a demand for new music, enriches communities, and helps develop the next generation of composers, musicians, and music patrons.

The Forum's 1,700 members include composers and performers, presenters and organizations that share the Forum's goals, and individuals and institutions with an interest in supporting new music. Forum members come from both urban and rural areas; they work in virtually every musical genre, including orchestral and chamber music, "world" music, opera and music theater, jazz and improvisational music, electronic and electro-acoustic music, and sound art. In addition to the tangible benefits of membership (including newsletters, invitations to chapter events, and eligibility for grant, fellowship, and residency programs), members are part of a national community of artists who share common concerns, aspirations, and goals.

Of particular interest to teachers and students are several programs created and monitored by the ACF:

Music by Kids for Kids (<https://composersforum.org/program/music-kids-kids>)

fills the gap in the music classroom between performing and composing music. In English class, students are encouraged to write their own prose and poetry. In art class, students are invited to pick up a brush and paint their own picture. The purpose of *Music by Kids for Kids* is to provide tools for 7th through 12th grade educators to incorporate composition and notation software into their classrooms.

Their **Education Resources** tab at the ACF also provides a wealth of information for teachers and students to tap in to at:

<https://composersforum.org/program/education-resources>

New Music USA (formerly American Music Center and Meet the Composer)

90 Broad St #1902,

New York, NY, USA

Administrative Offices: 212-645-6949

Library and Information: 212-366-5263

Email: info@newmusicusa.org

<https://www.newmusicusa.org>

The New Music USA (formerly the **American Music Center** and **Meet the Composer**) is dedicated to building a national community of artists, organizations, and audiences, creating, performing, and enjoying new American music. Since its founding in 1939 by composers Marion Bauer, Aaron Copland, Howard Hanson, Harrison Kerr, Otto Luening, and Quincy Porter, AMC has been a leader in providing field-wide *advocacy, support, and connection*. AMC advocates for the community through **NewMusicBox** <http://www.newmusicbox.org> its award-winning web magazine, and **CounterstreamRadio** <http://www.newmusicbox.org> a 24-hour online station broadcasting music by a broad range of United States composers. AMC supports the community by making grants to composers and ensembles each year, and by offering professional development programs for artists. AMC connects the community with an array of information services designed to facilitate performances, including the **AMC Online Library**, a vast, searchable database of 45,000 works by American composers; publications compiling opportunities in new music and other information useful to industry professionals; and benefits and services for nearly 2,500 members in all fifty states and around the world.

YAM: Young Audiences Music

YAM (Young Audiences Music) is an international platform for everyone working to bring live music to children and youth. The platform aims to provide professionals with access to information that will enable them to better serve young people across the globe. It is a place for people to connect, to ask questions and to discuss so that together we may build the future of music for young people. YAM is brought to you by JMI (Jeunesses Musicales International), the world's largest network of non-profit organisations working to enable youth to develop through music across all borders.

<http://yamspace.org>

Music Teachers National Association (MTNA)

Composer Commissioning Program

441 Vine Street, Suite 505

Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202-2811, USA

888-512-5278, or 513-421-1420

<http://www.mtna.org/programs/commissioned-composer/>

The MTNA has many state chapters that have programs for commissioning composers to write new music each year (California does this through the CAPMT Commissioning program). Each state decides what kind of music they will commission. Composers submit scores and recordings that are reviewed by state committees, and then chosen for performance at State Conventions. Each state submits its winning composer for national consideration for the MTNA Shepard Award each year, where the winning composition is performed at the MTNA National Convention each spring. Most scores submitted for consideration are archived at the MTNA headquarters. Members can access these scores and recordings. Contact your state president to inquire about details of this program.

BOOKS/PUBLICATIONS:

The **NewMusicUSA** and **The American Composers Forum** both publish valuable guides for opportunities in new music, as well as monthly on-line journals and opportunity updates for performers, teachers, and composers interested in new music including:

Commissioning Music: A Basic Guide: <https://www.newmusicusa.org/about/resources/> and ***An Individual's Guide to Commissioning Music***, both of which provide performers with guidelines for composer fees, and templates for legal agreements and contracts for commissioning new music.

In addition to the valuable resources those organizations provide, below are several books which are useful aids in understanding and programming new music:

The Rest is Noise; Listening to the Twentieth Century by Alex Ross (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2007)

Written by the music critic for *The New Yorker*, this is a very engaging and entertaining narrative history of the last 100 years of music. Focusing not just upon music, but on the rise of mass culture and mass politics, the effect of dramatic new technologies, the impact of wars and revolutions, and other important trends of the past century, this book reads not so much as a history of modern music but as a history of the 20th century through the music that was written during an important time.

Music for Piano: A Short History by F.E. Kirby (Amadeus Press 2003)

This is a general piano repertory book, which is useful for all genres of literature. It also contains six chapters on music written in the 20th century, which include brief biographies of composers and synopses of their works.

New Directions in Music by David Cope (Waveland Press, 2000)

This book is now in its seventh edition, which attests to its dominance as a leading text in the discovery and dissemination of 20th century music and its techniques across all genres, including piano music. Of particular note are the excellent appendices, which provide the reader with everything from a glossary of 20th century terminology, to a notational guide and contact information for publishers, recording companies, periodicals and hardware/software manufacturers, as well as interesting websites to browse and an extensive bibliography for further reading on any area of new music.

American Music in the Twentieth Century by Kyle Gann (Schirmer Books, 1997)

Written for the general reader, this book is a survey of the art music written in the United States during the last 100 years. It describes the characteristic sounds of diverse movements while at the same time sketches the changing social and cultural contexts of American music. Each chapter includes detailed discussion of several representative musical examples, and the book is illustrated with photographs of the century's most important composers. Very engaging and easy read, written by the new music critic for *The Village Voice*. Kyle Gann is also a professor at Bard College and a leading American composer.

Twentieth Century Piano Music by David Burge (Schirmer books, 2004)

Now in paperback, and including a CD, this book is a valuable resource for anyone who wants to know more about twentieth century piano music. Divided into four sections, each covering a key historical period with musical examples, this resource examines the development of different styles and compositional techniques, and integrates historical and artistic details. Burge offers cogent performance suggestions for selected works of Aaron Copland, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Pierre Boulez, Luciano Berio, John Cage, George Crumb, and others.

The Well-Prepared Piano by Richard Bunker (Colorado University Press, 1973)

Unfortunately, this book is out-of-print, but copies are available on the internet at the Bunker's website: http://www.richardbevans.com/music_catalog.html

It is also readily available at most university and college music libraries. It is a valuable tool to understanding some of the extended keyboard techniques of composers such as John Cage, George Crumb and others.

WORKSHOPS/FESTIVALS/EDUCATION:

The Walden School

The Walden School Young Musicians Program provides an unparalleled creative summer experience for musically inclined students ages 9 to 18. Part school, part camp, and part festival, the program convenes each summer for five weeks in Dublin, NH. Through rigorous and innovative daily instruction, students hone their musical and creative skills within a supportive community of like-minded peers and mentors. Focus is on the creation and performance of new music—teaching all participants that it is possible to be a composer at any age.

(415) 648-4710

<http://waldenschool.org>

Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice (yearly in June)

SICPP

c/o Stephen Drury

New England Conservatory

290 Huntington Avenue

Boston, MA 02115

<http://sicpp.org>

An intensive performance seminar on music of the 20th and 21st centuries for advanced pianists, percussionists, instrumentalists and vocalists. Features discussions and masterclasses on a broad range of modern repertoire, conducted by Stephen Drury, Artistic Director, with guest composers and artists working with seminar participants.