

COMPOSER TO CENTER STAGE READING SESSIONS

ALBANY SYMPHONY

Albany Symphony's "Composer to Center Stage Reading Sessions"

Orchestra Announces Nationwide Competition for Young & Emerging Composers

(ALBANY, NY) - The Albany Symphony announces an open call for scores for its annual "Composer to Center Stage Reading Session." Open to young & emerging composers nationwide looking to develop and refine their orchestral craft, the Albany Symphony will select three winners to join the orchestra during its annual American Music Festival in June 2017. The central event will be a reading session of a new work by each of the three selected composers by the full Albany Symphony, led by Music Director, David Alan Miller. In addition, the three composers will attend the orchestra's entire American Music Festival, participating in unique professional development sessions, in-depth collaborations with the symphony's celebrated resident composers - including Chris Theofanidis, Reena Esmail, and others - and attend all rehearsals and performances.

The competition is part of the Orchestra's "Composer to Center Stage" initiative, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which continues the orchestra's venerable tradition of commitment to new music, particularly through nurturing new compositional voices. The initiative fosters collaboration between the orchestra, its audiences, and nationally acclaimed and emerging composers.

The orchestra will accept applications between November 15th, 2016 and January 15th, 2017. Application guidelines can be found on the Albany Symphony's website at www.albanysymphony.com/adults/.

About the Albany Symphony

The Albany Symphony is one of this region's most revered music and cultural institutions, having won numerous national awards for its adventurous concert programming, recording projects, composer residencies, and innovative educational efforts involving area schools throughout the region. The Albany Symphony enriches a broad and diverse regional community throughout New York's Capital Region, tri-state area, and beyond. Central to the Albany Symphony's mission is its recording of works by living composers. Among its myriad of recently-completed recording projects are the "Seeing" Piano Concerto by Christopher Rouse, "Three Manhattan Bridges" by Michael Torke, "The Wild and Whimsical World of David Mallamud" by the Symphony's new-music chamber ensemble the Dogs of Desire, "The Great Gatsby Suite" by John Harbison, and John Corigliano's Percussion Concerto, "Conjurer," featuring Evelyn Glennie, for which the orchestra won its first Grammy® Award.

OPEN CALL BEGINS:

NOVEMBER 15, 2016

OPEN CALL ENDS:

JANUARY 15, 2017

READING SESSIONS:

JUNE 1, 2017

AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL:

May 30 - June 4, 2017

MAIL MATERIALS TO:

ALBANY SYMPHONY
ATTN: OPEN CALL
19 CLINTON AVE.
ALBANY, NY 12207

OR E-MAIL TO:

matthewc@albanysymphony.com



ALBANY SYMPHONY

Eligibility & Guidelines

- Applicant must be either a US citizen or non-citizen lawfully and permanently residing, or studying full-time, in the United States.
- There are no age restrictions; however, applicants should be composers at the early stages of their professional careers.
- Only one work per composer will be considered. Previously submitted compositions are ineligible.
- Only works that will not have been performed or read by a professional orchestra* prior to the reading date (June 2017) are eligible. (*Defined as any orchestra with 501c3 status that pays its members.)
- Only works completed within the last three (3) years will be considered.
- Works may be up to twelve (12) minutes in length. At the Music Director's discretion, selected sections of longer works will be considered.
- Instrumentation should not exceed Albany Symphony's standard symphonic complement: (SEE PAGE 3).
- Concertos or choral works are not eligible (no exceptions).
- Works with Electronic elements are discouraged, but will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- If selected, composers (working in conjunction with the Albany Symphony music librarian) must provide professional, legible orchestral parts and scores prepared according to guidelines established by the Major Orchestral Librarians Association: <http://www.mola-inc.org>
- The quality of the score submitted is the primary evaluation criteria. It is therefore in the applicant's best interest that the score be clear, accurate, and the best representation of the composer's work. Incomplete, illegible, or late applications will not be considered.
- Winning composers will be expected to join the orchestra for a series of professional development sessions during for the orchestra's American Music Festival from May 30 - June 4, 2017
- Finalists will have travel and accommodation expenses paid for.

Submission Guidelines:

Application materials may be submitted either electronically as PDFs to Education and Community Engagement Coordinator, Matthew Clemens, at matthewc@albansymphony.com, or by mail to ATTN: Open Call; Albany Symphony Office at 19 Clinton Avenue, Albany, NY 12207.

Applications must include:

- One legible score of one orchestral work (bound, if submitted by mail) written within the last three years that has not been performed or read by a professional orchestra.
 - Label the cover with your name, composition's title, mailing address, email address, phone number.
 - Instrumentation should be labeled on or near first page.
 - 11x17 size scores preferred.
- A current resume including educational background, major teachers, awards, professional affiliations.
- A list of works, including title, year composed, instrumentation, duration, and performance history.
- One letter of recommendation from an established composer or other music professional, attesting to the applicant's accomplishments and potential as an orchestral composer. The recommendation may be sent under separate cover either via hard copy or e-mail (matthewc@albansymphony.com, subject line "AMF Letter of Recommendation").
- A program note of the submitted work.
- Recording or MIDI. Although not required, it is highly recommended.
- A self-addressed, stamped envelope suitable for the return of materials. The Albany Symphony is not responsible for any lost scores.
- For works with electronics, MIDI, and/or digital technologies: include a one-page statement describing the rationale for its use, as well as any pertinent production requirements and technical specifications.

The image shows a close-up of a trumpet player in a suit and bow tie, performing in a concert hall. The background is blurred, showing other musicians and warm stage lighting. The Albany Symphony logo is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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Instrumentation

Instrumentation should not exceed Albany Symphony's standard symphonic complement. Works with instrumentation which exceed the forces listed below will be considered only with advanced approval.

3 Flutes [1.2.3/picc]
3 Oboes [1.2.3/EH]
3 Clarinets [1.2.3/bcl]
3 Bassoons [1.2.3/cntra]

Brass:

4 French Horns
3 Trumpets
3 Trombones
1 Tuba

Percussion:

Timpani
3 Percussionists*

Harp

Piano/Celeste

Strings:

8 First Violins
8 Second Violins
6 Violas
6 Cellos
4 Double Basses

*Percussion Instruments are limited to the following. Any additional instruments must have prior approval.

Vibraphone, 4-octave Marimba, Glockenspiel, Bongos, Suspended Cymbal, Triangles, Cow Bells, Conga, Tambourine, Concert Bass Drum, Crotales, Snare Drum, Whip, Chimes, Bell Tree, Claves, Castanets, Sandpaper blocks, Woodblocks, Crash Cymbals, Suspended cymbal, Tam-Tam, Temple Blocks, Xylophone, Ratchet.