

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jim Sector
(518) 465-4755 x 31
jims@albanysymphony.com

Albany Symphony Begins Second Annual Young Composer Competition
Orchestra Announces Nationwide Competition for Young & Emerging Composers

(ALBANY, NY) – The Albany Symphony Orchestra is proud to announce the orchestra’s second composer competition: the *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 finalists to join the orchestra in March and May 2011 for a number of highly unique professional development sessions, in-depth collaboration with the symphony’s celebrated resident composers - including nationally-acclaimed and Grammy award winning composer John Corigliano - and a chance to hear their piece read and rehearsed by the Albany Symphony at the orchestra’s May 2011 American Music Festival. The orchestra will accept submissions of scores between **August 3rd, 2010** and **November 13th, 2010**. Travel and housing will be provided for those selected as finalists during their trips to Albany. Application guidelines (attached) can be found on the orchestra’s website at:

http://www.albanysymphony.com/news_and_media/composers

The competition comes off a highly-successful inaugural year, in which the Albany Symphony developed and built a comprehensive “curriculum” for finalists that address a wide variety of areas important to a developing composer: many of which involved collaboration with local organizations such as Capital Repertory Theatre and Cohoes-based Spiral Design Studios. Wang Lu, a finalist of last year’s competition remarked: “It has been a great experience....I gained a lot from the series of professional development workshops. These workshops touched on very important issues for composers, such as: how to prepare orchestra parts, present yourself, build up a professional portfolio, sign a contract, etc. All very useful and practical, but surprisingly, things we never learned in school.”

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 through the development of those newest to the field. The initiative is an exciting three-year project, currently in its second year, which fosters collaboration between the orchestra, ASO audiences, and several nationally-acclaimed composers: resulting in various concert and commissioning events, recordings, and community engagement and educational outreach activities. Each season the orchestra will collaborate with a major composer to mentor lesser-known composers, inviting the orchestra and audience to develop a relationship with some of America's most important artists and their work.

After last year's brilliant season with composers John Harbison and Stacy Garrop, the ASO looks forwards to its second year of "*Composer to Center Stage*" with academy award winning composer John Corigliano taking the reins as "*Mentor-Composer Partner*" during the orchestra's landmark 80th Anniversary-Carnegie Hall season, along with the energetic, cross-genre composer Derek Bermel taking the position of "*Composer-Educator Partner*" with the orchestra. Mr. Bermel will be involved with the Enlarged City School District of Troy in an interdisciplinary, year-long project involving music, composition, and the orchestra.

For more information on the Albany Symphony, its composer competition, or its upcoming 80th Anniversary season, please visit www.albanysymphony.com.

[see attachment]

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About the ASO

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. As the only professional symphony orchestra based within the Capital Region, the Albany Symphony enriches a broad and diverse regional community, engaging over 150,000 people each year across an extended geographical area. After reviewing the Albany Symphony's recent 2009 recording of music by resident composer George Tsontakis, American Record Guide proclaimed: "The Albany Symphony is now one of the country's great orchestras."

COMPOSER TO CENTER STAGE PROGRAM

Reading Session: *Open Call: 2010-2011*



Important Dates



Open Call Begins: August 3, 2010
Open Call Ends: November 13, 2010
Winners Announced: January, 2011

Winning composers will be expected to join the orchestra for a series of professional development sessions in **March 2011** (3/9-3/12) and for the orchestra's American Music Festival in **May 2011** (5/18-5/22)

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.
- Each composer may submit only one composition for consideration. Only one work per composer will be considered.
- Only works that will not have been performed or read by a professional orchestra nor received a public performance prior to the reading date are eligible.
- Only works completed within the last five years will be considered.
- Works may be up to 15 minutes in length. Sections of longer works will be considered.
- Instrumentation should not exceed ASO's standard symphonic complement: (SEE BELOW). Works with instrumentation which exceed the above will be considered only with advance approval.
- Not eligible are concertos, choral works, works with excessive electronic elements
- Works with **Electronic elements** are discouraged, but will be considered on a case-by-case basis. 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
- If selected, composers must provide professional, legible orchestral parts and scores prepared according to guidelines established by the Major Orchestral Librarians Association.
- 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
- **Materials must be postmarked by November 13, 2010.**

How to Apply

- One bound and legible score of one orchestral work written within the last five years.
 - o Label the cover with your name, composition's name, mailing address, email address, telephone number
 - o Instrumentation should be labeled on or near first page
 - o 11x17 size scores preferred
- Recording or MIDI, if available
- A current resume including educational background, major teachers, awards, professional affiliations
- A list of works, including title, year composed, instrumentation, duration, and performance history

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- 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.
- A program note and information detailing the complete performance or reading history (if any) of the submitted work, including all dates and names of performing ensembles.
- A self-addressed, stamped envelope suitable for the return of materials. All supporting materials remain the property of the Albany Symphony Orchestra. The ASO 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.
- Send to:
 Albany Symphony Orchestra
 Attn: AMF Open Call
 19 Clinton Ave.,
 Albany, NY 12207

Instrumentation shall not exceed:

3 flutes, 3rd flute doubling on piccolo
 2 oboes
 3 clarinets + 1 dedicated bass clarinet
 2 bassoons (no contra bassoon doubling)
 4 horns
 3 trumpets
 3 trombones (2 tenor, 1 bass)
 1 Tuba

Timpani
 3 percussionists
 Harp
 Piano

Strings: *The string count is 8 violin I, 8 violin II, 6 violas, 6 cellos, 4 basses*

Percussion is limited to the following:

Pedal Bass Drum
 Cymbals
 Suspended cymbal
 Sizzle cymbal
 High hat
 Snare drum

Triangle
 Tambourine
 Glockenspiel
 Crotales
 Bell tree
 Claves

Castanets
 Sandpaper blocks
 Woodblocks (2)

*The Symphony strongly discourages writing divisi parts for strings. Should the Composer desire to do so, prior authorization must be obtained.

Further information? Questions?:

Please email us at: info@albanysymphony.com, with "AMF Open Call" in the subject line of your email, or call at (518) 465-4755