

**“Orchestrating for the 21st Century”
Composer Workshop & Reading Session
with Christopher Theofanidis**

Application Period Ends January 25, 2019

Program Description

An intensive five-day workshop held during the Albany Symphony's 2019 American Music Festival, “Orchestrating for the 21st Century” is focused on how to write for the modern orchestra. Curated and led by Christopher Theofanidis, the workshop will take place in the context of over 12 concerts of new American works during the Festival week and will focus on helping emerging composers move beyond instrumentation to refine techniques of distinctive orchestration. Participants will become fully immersed in the Festival’s new music activities and events, interacting closely with more than 20 resident composers, as well as with Albany Symphony musicians, visiting performers, and Albany Symphony Music Director, David Alan Miller.

Each day will include one major session of score study and orchestration, and observation of rehearsals and concerts. Over the course of the workshop, participants will also receive lessons in masterclass format with Christopher Theofanidis: each participant will have the opportunity to present to the full group and receive feedback. Score study of works by John Adams, Thomas Ades, Jacob Druckman, Henri Dutilleux, Helmut Lachenmann, Andrew Norman, Tristan Murail, and others will complement a series of discussions centered around the use of technology in the orchestra, rehearsal protocol and strategies, and where to look for opportunities to write for orchestra. The sessions will also feature special guest talks with resident Festival composers and artists. In addition, participants will meet with the Symphony’s Executive Director, Music Director and music librarian, experts in music publishing, and new media specialists to learn more about trends and challenges for composers in the orchestral field.

New for 2019, all accepted composers will have the opportunity to write a new work for a conducted ensemble of Albany Symphony musicians, to be read in a public workshop during the 2019 American Music Festival.

Twelve composers will be selected by Christopher Theofanidis and David Alan Miller based on work samples and professor recommendations. The program is open to graduate composition students, advanced undergraduate students, and recent graduates.

The orchestra will accept applications between December 15, 2018 and January 25, 2019.

Eligibility and Fees

- Applicant must be either a US citizen or non-citizen lawfully residing, or studying full-time, in the United States. Proof of citizenship or residency status may be requested at any time.
- There are no age restrictions; however, applicants should be current graduate composition students, advanced undergraduate composition students, or recent graduates at the early stages of their careers.
- Winning composers will be expected to join the orchestra for a series of professional development sessions during the orchestra's American Music Festival from May 28 – June 1, 2019.
- Selected finalists will be issued a notification letter by February 15, 2019 with a request for payment and details regarding the reading session opportunity.
- The **\$995.00** workshop fee includes sessions, lessons, five nights room accommodations, two group meals, and the option to participate in a public reading session of a new work. Travel expenses and additional meals are not included.

Submission Guidelines

Application materials may be submitted electronically as PDFs to Sophie Moss, Director of Education & Community Engagement, at SophieM@albansymphony.com, or by mail to:

ATTN: Orchestrating for the 21st Century
Albany Symphony
19 Clinton Ave.
Albany, NY 12207

Applications must be postmarked (or received electronically) by January 25, 2019.

Required Application Materials

- A current resume including educational background, major teachers, awards, professional affiliations.
- A list of works, including title, year composed, instrumentation, duration, and performance history.
- Two 4 to 5 minute audio excerpts with score PDFs. (MIDI or live ensemble are both acceptable.)
- Three professional references with contact information. References should be established composers or other music professionals that have worked closely with the applicant.

Applicants applying by email must submit all documents in PDF form.

Please include "Orchestrating for the 21st Century" in your email subject line.

Optional Application Materials

- Cover letter describing how the workshop would provide professional and personal benefit.
- Program notes for any submitted works.
- Letters of recommendation from listed references attesting to the applicant's accomplishments and potential as an orchestral composer.



About Christopher Theofanidis

Christopher Theofanidis has had performances by the London Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the National, Baltimore, St. Louis, and Detroit symphonies, among many others. He has also served as Composer of the Year for the Pittsburgh Symphony during their 2006-7 season, for which he wrote a violin concerto for Sarah Chang, and has a special lifelong relationship with the Atlanta Symphony and Maestro Robert Spano, with whom he has made several recordings.

Mr. Theofanidis holds degrees from Yale, Eastman, and the University of Houston, and has been the recipient of the International Masterprize, the Rome Prize, a Guggenheim fellowship, a Fulbright fellowship to France, and two fellowships from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has been nominated for a Grammy for best composition twice, once for his work, *The Here and Now*, based on the poetry of Rumi, and this year for his *Bassoon Concerto*. His orchestral work, *Rainbow Body*, has been one of the most performed new works of the new millennium, having been performed by over 150 orchestras internationally. *Dreamtime Ancestors*, a consortium work for New Music for America, has been played by over fifty different orchestras over the past two seasons.

Mr. Theofanidis has written widely for the stage, including works for the San Francisco and Houston Grand Opera companies, as well as the American Ballet Theatre. He is a former faculty member of the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University as well as the Juilliard School. Mr. Theofanidis has served as a delegate to the US Japan Foundation's Leadership Program and is currently a professor at Yale University and a composer-in-residence of the Aspen Music Festival.

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 recently-completed recording projects are discs devoted to works by George Tsontakis, Christopher Rouse, Michael Torke, John Harbison, John Corigliano, and Michael Daugherty.

The American Music Festival will feature more than 20 new works by over 15 American composers, including several world premieres commissioned by the orchestra. Two American masters return to the Albany Symphony – David Del Tredici and John Corigliano – for performances of their seminal works. Other composers in residence will include Tanner Porter, Viet Cuong, and Molly Joyce. For more information about the American Music Festival, please visit: <http://www.albanysymphony.com/thefestival/>.