

Detroit Composers' Project

CALL FOR PROPOSALS for NEW WORKS

February 18, 2020 - [Detroit Composers' Project](#) is presenting a program of new works this June that explore the idea of **music as historical and cultural preservation**. DCP invites interested composers to submit a short proposal for a new musical work for small ensemble (1-5 players) that responds to a historical event, place, person, experience, or other cultural object that links the artist to their current time and place. This program seeks to engage a combination of Detroit-based and non-local artists, with the goal of presenting a dynamic and fluid historical snapshot of composers' perspectives, interests, and experiences. DCP seeks projects that will thoughtfully engage Detroit audiences and performers; composers from diverse musical backgrounds, as well as composer-performers, are encouraged to apply.

Music is a pillar of historical preservation. To know a time in history, a city, or a culture more intimately, we listen to its music. DCP invites composers to submit proposals that thoughtfully and creatively engage with our theme and we encourage topics ranging from Detroit's history, artists, landmarks, to personal narratives that reflect composers' place and time outside of Detroit itself. We also encourage proposals that integrate thoughtful research of untold stories or the exploration of topics previously unknown to the composer.

PROJECT TIMELINE

FEBRUARY 23 - Application open for composers

MARCH 16 - APPLICATION DUE / Close Applications

MARCH 19 - Selected composers notified and instrumentations confirmed

MAY 8 - Final score/parts due from composer

JUNE 3,4 - Rehearsals occur in downtown Detroit; Time & Location TBD

JUNE 5 - Performances occur at the [Detroit Institute of Arts' Friday Night Live Series](#)

APPLICANT GUIDELINES

- Composers may be any age, experience, or place in their career;
- Of the 5-6 selected composers, 3-4 will be Detroit or Michigan-based, & 1-2 may be non-local.
- Composers must be able to attend 2-3 rehearsals in Downtown Detroit the week prior to the performance. Limited travel stipends may be available for out-of-state composers and DCP can help out-of-town composers look for hosts/housing during their stay.

SUBMISSION MATERIALS

- **Completion of the online application inclusive of:**
- A 350-500 word proposal on the musical work you'd like to create;
- **TWO** contrasting musical samples; DCP encourages artists to send their **best musical work**, regardless of whether or not notated scores are available or applicable to your practice; If you are submitting two scores, please submit scores AND recordings (MIDI is acceptable).

SELECTED COMPOSER RECEIVES

- \$650 Honorarium;
- Premiere on June 5, 2020 at the Detroit Institute of Arts' Rivera Court;
- Opportunity to collaborate with professional, local musicians;
- Recording of the performance;



[Application available here](#) (NO APPLICATION FEE)

Questions? Ask us: DetroitComposersProject@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Detroit Composers' Project empowers composers and performers by creating opportunities for meaningful collaboration and imaginative performances. We are a new organization exploring the ways in which we can support composers and performers by facilitating artistic, collaborative, and fundraising opportunities.

Our June commissioning program is led by a member of Detroit Composers' Project's artistic leadership, [Sonya Belaya](#). Sonya is a pianist, singer, composer, and improviser who splits her time between Michigan and New York City. In addition to leading the program, she will also create a new work and premiere many of the works as a pianist. She will work closely with Detroit Composers' Project staff to curate and design a program that reflects her own experiences as a diverse music-maker invested in vulnerable art and the development of strong, personal collaborations.

We encourage interested composers to reach out to us with ANY questions about the project. We are happy to answer specific questions about the theme or review brief proposal ideas in advance of the deadline. Please reach out to us at DetroitComposersProject@gmail.com

FAQs

How are Composers selected? Composers will be selected by a panel of 4-5 artists that include Belaya, DCP Managing Director Harriet Steinke, and a variety of experienced composers and performers inside and outside of the Detroit area. The panel will look for projects that are clear, authentic, and within reach of the scope of our project. Our panel will span a wide range of styles, interests, and experiences and we hope to choose composers that similarly reflect diverse styles and experiences.

Can I apply if I've participated in a previous DCP program? Yes.

How long does the piece need to be? We are open to proposals for longer works (15-20+ minutes) but ask that your proposed piece be at least 7-8 minutes. Please include length in your proposal (as requested).

I've written a piece that fits in perfectly with this theme! Can I submit a piece I've already written? Yes. We are interested in reviewing and considering existing pieces that would fit on this program. Please include it as one of your work samples and leave a note in the work sample notes section. If you ONLY want to submit a piece for us to consider for performance, please email us separate of the application. In this scenario, we would not offer a full honorarium but will offer a small stipend to cover travel and participation.

What if I live out of state and don't have ANY connection to Detroit or Michigan? We are interested in proposals that reflect a thoughtful exploration of our theme. Finding a connection between a Detroit-related topic and your own interests or experiences will strengthen your application, but we are open to any ideas that respond thoughtfully and authentically to our theme and would deepen an audience's personal, social, or cultural understanding of a history, experience, place, or untold story.

I want to work with musicians I already know or am a composer-performer? Can I submit for premiere by specific performers? We are open to including you or your colleagues in our performance, however our budget for including additional artists is limited. We are flexible to accommodate reasonable requests within the scope of the program. For example, if you really wanted to include a specific performing artist, we would definitely explore the possibility of integrating the artist into our program. Composer-performers will not receive additional funding past their honorarium for performing their piece but may be integrated into the rest of the program (and contracted as a performer as well) if the composer is willing, able, and their performance practice suits other composers' proposed projects.

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APPLICATION TEXT

The application is available through google and asks for the following information. We recommend saving your information on a separate document ahead of time, as google does not allow you to save your application and return at a different time.

A. Personal Information:

- Name
- Email
- Phone Number
- Birth Year
- Personal Pronouns
- Website (Or similar online portfolio)
- Current Location
- Current Place of Study (If in school)

B. Project Proposal and Project Information:

- Please give us a proposal (350++ words) on the new work you'd like to create, including but not limited to:
 1. How your project relates to our theme of music as historical preservation;
 2. Details on whether or not your pieces requires additional research or extra-musical exploration (we encourage this) and how you will go about this portion of the creative process;
 3. Any creative or professional experiences or motivations that suggest a likelihood of success in your project;
 4. Relevance of your proposed new work (Why *this* piece? Why now?);
 5. Any other creative role you will have in the project or other artists you'd like to engage. (Ex. If you would perform in your piece, if you're engaging a poet to create text, etc.);
 6. Any other logistical details about your work (length/movements, etc).
- Approximately how long would your piece be? We are open to ranges between 7 and 20 minutes.
- Expanding on #4 of the proposal question, what is the relevance of creating this work for a Detroit premiere? We are primarily interested in the work's relevance to this community and/or your own personal motivation in sharing this work with Detroit/Michigan audiences. (100+ Words).
- We will engage 4-5 performers that as-of now include a pianist. Please give us a sense of the instrumentation you would require for your work. Please be detailed as to what extent you are flexible and/or what elements of the ensemble are absolutely necessary (ex. I NEED a violinist, but am flexible on the other members of the ensemble). Use this space to specify any electronic components to your desired work.
- Is there anything else we should know about you or your project? (Optional).

C. Work Samples:

- Work Sample #1 TITLE, YEAR OF COMPOSITION, INSTRUMENTATION
- Work Sample #1 MEDIA UPLOAD - Saved YOUR LAST NAME -- TITLE OF COMPOSITION (AUDIO/PDF)
- Work Sample #2 TITLE, YEAR OF COMPOSITION, INSTRUMENTATION
- Work Sample #2 MEDIA UPLOAD - Saved YOUR LAST NAME -- TITLE OF COMPOSITION (AUDIO/PDF)
- Work Sample Notes (Optional)

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