

2015-2016 CU Composer Opportunities

College of Music – CU Boulder

For Composition Majors

Annual Awards

Spark Graduate Award - \$1000 Commission

Spark Undergraduate Award - \$500 Commission

Submit an electro-acoustic composition written during your time at CU. The winner will be commissioned to write a piece for the following season Atlas Pendulum New Music Concert. In the event that the recipient will not be in Boulder for that season, the award may be given as a cash amount without the commission.

While any electro-acoustic work will be considered for the awards, preference will be given for music created with the aid of technology with an emphasis on innovative use of technology to simultaneously advance the frontiers of music and technology in creation of new musical forms, instruments, styles, and genres.

Graduate Composition Award - \$500 Commission

Undergraduate Composition Award - \$500 Commission

Submit your strongest composition from your time at CU. The winner will be commissioned to write a piece for the following Pendulum New Music concert season, or for another CU venue. In the event that the recipient will not be in Boulder for the following season, the award may be given as a cash amount without the commission.

Wind Ensemble Award - \$500 and Premiere by a CU Band

Submit a work for symphonic band or wind ensemble to be considered for premiere during the following season by the CU Symphonic Band or the CU Wind Symphony, and a \$500 prize. The work or a major revision of the work should have been completed at CU. Preference will be given to un-premiered works. Students who have previously won this award may submit another piece. The composition faculty will work with Professor McKinney to pick a winning composition and to schedule the work for performance.

Pro Musica Young Composer Award - \$500 Commission

The Pro Musica Young Composer Award is a \$500 commission for the professional Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra. Submit two scores with recordings in a single envelope labeled with your name and the name of the award. If possible, include an orchestra piece or another work for large ensemble. If you are selected, you must be able to commit to the proposed deadlines for delivering the commission in order to receive the award. The composition faculty will work with Maestro Cynthia Katsarelis to pick a winning composer.

Submission Details for the Spark Awards, the Undergraduate and Graduate Composition Awards, the Wind Ensemble Award, and the Pro Music Young Composer Award:

1. Submit scores to the designated file drawer in the CRuNCh Lab
2. Fill out the simple form here: [Link](#)
3. Recordings should be included when possible (midi is acceptable)
4. Scores must be turned in to CRuNCh and the google form filled out by end of the day on March 1 of that academic year.
5. Fill out the entry form for each award separately.

CU CHORAL COMPOSITION AWARD \$500 + Performance

The University of Colorado Choral and Composition Departments present the CU Choral Composition Award to any current CU Composition student with an eligible choral work. The composer with the winning work will be awarded a cash prize of \$500 and receive a recorded performance by one of the university choirs.

Guidelines and Submission Details for CU Choral Composition Award:

1. The composition should be 2-5 minutes in length.
2. The composition can be unaccompanied (*a cappella*) or accompanied by a piano or other obbligato instrument.
3. The composition can be set in any language, provided the text is either in the public domain OR the composer provides documentation that he/she has already received permission from the author/copyright holder for the use of the text.
4. The composition can be framed in a 4 to 8-part SATB voicing.
5. Compositions and documentation of text permission (where applicable) should be submitted by March 1 of the year prior to the performance.
6. Submit hard copies to the designated file drawer in the CRuNCh Lab, and fill out the entry here: [Link](#)

Composition Award Rules and Regulations:

1. Only current students (not yet graduated) are eligible for awards.
2. You may not win an award more than once, but you may submit for other awards. The Wind Ensemble Award is an exception to this rule.
3. When specified, work must have been completed while at CU.
4. Awards will be adjudicated by the composition faculty and in conjunction with the Wind Conducting faculty, Choral Conducting faculty, and Maestro Katsarelis as applicable.
5. The faculty reserves the right to not award a winner in a particular category.
6. Awards will generally be given in the form of continuing scholarship at the College of Music. When needed, awards may be given as a cash amount.

CU NOW (New Opera Workshop) Composer Fellows

Each year three to five CU NOW Composer Fellows will be selected to participate in the annual CU NOW Festival, which takes place each June at the College of Music and the Atlas Black Box Theatre. The composers will be invited to compose an operatic or music theatre scene up to 8-minutes in length and composed for soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor, bass/baritone, and piano. Returning students should also submit an idea of a 30-minute scene. A schedule of deadlines will be distributed to the chosen composers.

Submission Guidelines:

1. Submit 1-3 scores and recordings (all contained in one envelope) to the designated file drawer in the CRuNCh Lab. Returning students should also submit scores.
2. Submit a brief synopsis of a proposed scene. You will not be held to the proposal, but your initial idea will give the faculty a sense of what you will do with this opportunity.
3. You must be present in Boulder for the entire festival, which takes place the first two weeks of June.
4. Submit scores and proposals by the end of the day on October 1. Participants will be announced sometime in October.

Electro-Acoustic Creative Student Grants

Each academic year the composition faculty will award several Electro-Acoustic Creative Student Grants to facilitate student work in electro-acoustic music. The grants may cover, hardware, software, travel, special training, production costs, conference fee, or any other cost associated with creative work in electro-acoustic composition. Grant applications will be accepted beginning October 1 and will remain open until the money is used. Once awarded, grants can only be redeemed with reimbursement forms and receipts for money spent. The grants can range up to \$500 and will be given at the discretion of the composition faculty. Multiple small grants helping several students may be favored over larger grants helping fewer students. The total pool of available money each academic year is \$1000.

In a one-page proposal include the following information:

1. A summary of the project and how it will benefit the student.
2. A timeline for completion of the project and when the student plans to request reimbursement.
3. The total cost of the project and the specific portion of the total cost being requested in the grant.

Composition Student Travel Grants

Due to limitations in funding, the faculty has suspended any Composition Student Travel Grants. We encourage you to look to the College of Music graduate office and other grant sources on campus for travel funding.

Large Ensemble Readings Fellowship Quartet Performances Catch-All Sessions Composer Exchange

Sign-up: All sign-up information for any large ensemble reading, project with the Fellowship Quartet, catch-all concert, or composer exchange should be completed here: [Link](#)

Large Ensemble Readings

Towards the very end of each semester the CU Orchestra, Symphonic Band, and Wind Symphony will read new pieces by CU composers. Readings are entirely up to the discretion of the conducting faculty and availability of the ensembles. There are no guarantees that any readings will take place in a given semester. If you are interested to have a piece read, sign up on the google doc (listed above) with all relevant information by the given deadline. Subsequent deadlines for score, parts, and conductor assignments will be determined as necessary each semester.

- Fall deadline for sign-up: October 1
- Spring deadline for sign-up: February 1

Fellowship Quartet Composer Projects

Each semester the Fellowship Quartet will perform two new pieces by CU composers. Most performances will take place on Pendulum New Music but other venues may be substituted when necessary. The Fellowship quartet will work with the composers to prepare and premiere the works. Projects are determined one to two semesters in advance. If you are interested in a future semester, please sign-up at the link above.

Quartet Project Guidelines:

1. Score and parts are due on the first day of the semester when the projects will be performed.
2. Submit score and parts electronically to Daniel Kellogg and Erika Eckert and submit hard copies to Erika Eckert.
3. Score and parts must be approved before the 1st day of the semester by a composition faculty as being "ready" for the quartet.
4. When possible, the Fellowship Quartet will come to composition seminar to have an early "reading" of the work.
5. The quartet will schedule 2-3 rehearsals plus a dress rehearsal with the composer. The quartet may invite the composer to additional rehearsals but it is also acceptable for the quartet to schedule other rehearsals without the composer.
6. The pieces may not be longer than 12-minutes and should be of a reasonable difficulty.
7. Especially difficult pieces may not receive a performance. The faculty will make this decision.
8. Pieces should be for quartet alone. Any project adding electronics or an additional player must be approved a semester in advance by the String Chair, Prof. Eckert, and the quartet.

Catch-All Sessions

At the end of each semester a “catch-all” sessions will be scheduled in C-199 or Grusin. This will be an unofficial time in a concert hall to schedule any unperformed works, have a recorded reading, or re-record a work already performed that semester. These dates will be scheduled the weekend of final exams and therefore the time cannot be an official advertised concert with a program. The session will be recorded and we can informally invite friends. Composers are responsible to pull together every aspect of pieces they intend to have performed.

Deadlines:

1. November 15, 2015 – deadline for December Catch-All sign-up
2. April 15, 2016 – deadline for May Catch-All sign-up

Composer Exchange

Each year the CU Composition Program participates in a weekend composer exchange with the University of Missouri at Kansas City (UMKC) and the University of Iowa. Information for the 2016 exchange will come soon...