

Chamber Music America

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For Immediate Release

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CHAMBER MUSIC AMERICA AWARDS \$181,500 FOR CHAMBER MUSIC COMMISSIONS

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(New York, NY) Chamber Music America (CMA) announced today that it will award \$181,500 in grants for ten commissioning projects in six states. The commissions, made through CMA's Classical Commissioning Program, are funded by a generous multi-year grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The grants will fund the creation of a wide range of new works written by such rising young composers as Huang Ruo and Kurt Stallman, as well as established masters Steve Reich and David Del Tredici.

Since its creation in 1982, the CMA Commissioning Program has made more than 100 grants. Works that have been funded include Aaron Jay Kernis's Pulitzer Prize-winning Quartet No. 2 ("Musica Instrumentalis"); George Tsontakis's String Quartet No. 4 ("Beneath Thy Tenderness of Heart"), recipient of the Kennedy Center Friedheim Award; Joan Tower's *Night Fields*; Richard Danielpour's *Urban Dances*; and Steve Mackey's *Indigenous Instruments*.

"CMA is particularly pleased to offer these grants during such a difficult economic year for the chamber music field," said Margaret M. Lioi, CMA's chief executive officer. "We are very grateful to The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for its outstanding support of the Commissioning Program, which has enabled CMA to make more substantial grants to more ensembles. Enriching the chamber music repertoire with new compositions is thrilling, and we are happy to be able to play a part in that process."

Chamber Music America, the national service organization for the ensemble music profession, was founded in 1977 to develop and strengthen an evolving chamber music community. With a membership of over 8,000, including musicians, ensembles, presenters, artists' managers, educators, music businesses, and advocates of ensemble music, CMA welcomes members representing a wide range of musical styles and traditions. In addition to its funding programs, CMA provides its members with consulting services, access to health and instrument insurance, conferences, seminars and several publications, including *Chamber Music* magazine and a website, www.chamber-music.org.

GRANTEES

Chiara String Quartet (Lincoln, NE) A quartet by **Huang Ruo** that takes its inspiration from wall drawings from various epochs and cultures

Dorian Wind Quintet (New York, NY) A multi-movement woodwind quintet by composer **David Del Tredici**, celebrating the group's 50th anniversary

Ensō Quartet (New York, NY) A piece for string quartet and electronics by composer **Kurt Stallman**. The work will be performed in sections throughout an entire concert program, weaving in pieces from the traditional classical repertoire.

Festival of New Trumpet Music (New York, NY) and the **Meridian Arts Ensemble** (New York, NY) *Seven Kings* by **David Sanford**: a multi-movement work for brass quintet, percussion and jazz trumpeter Dave Ballou

Imani Winds (New York, NY) A work by **Simon Shaheen** for woodwind quintet and *oud* (Arabic lute), incorporating the melodic *maqam* and rhythmic *iqa* systems found in Middle Eastern music. Shaheen will perform on the *oud* as guest artist.

Kronos Quartet (San Francisco, CA) A work by **Steve Reich**, in which the quartet will perform live with recordings of itself (as in the composer's *Triple Quartet*). The piece will call for the musicians to vocalize as well as play.

PRISM Quartet (Philadelphia, PA) A work by **Bright Sheng** for saxophone quartet and an ensemble of Chinese instruments. Featuring guest ensemble Music From China, the piece will explore the unity and disparity of the instruments' timbres.

Shanghai Quartet (Montclair, NJ) A work by **Lei Liang** for string quartet and *pipa* (Chinese lute), based on a melody from the Tang dynasty. Wu Man is the guest *pipa* player.

Sō Percussion (Brooklyn, NY) A 25-minute work for percussion quartet by composer **Steve Mackey**.

Zeitgeist (Saint Paul, MN) A work by **Chinary Ung** for Zeitgeist's instrumental combination (two percussion, piano and clarinet/bass clarinet) that also calls on the musicians to speak and sing.

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