



JANUARY 30, 2015 | CONTACT: STUART WOLFERMAN | STUART@UNFINISHEDSIDE.COM | 718-938-7679

COMPOSERS NOW AWARDED TRANSFORMATIVE GRANT FROM THE ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND

Endorsement from the RBF provides foundation for future growth.



New York, NY - **Composers Now** has been awarded a transformative grant from the **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** for 2015. The support will allow Composers Now to continue to deepen its commitment to composers, both through the annual festival in **NYC's five boroughs**, and through the expansion of its current programs. The grant also allows for the possibility of **new initiatives** in support of the organization's mission.

The Composers Now Festival celebrates and honors living composers, the diversity of their voices and the significance of their contributions to the cultural fabric of our society. Presented collaboratively with organizations throughout the five boroughs during the month of February, the festival features a broad spectrum of performances in concert halls, jazz clubs, opera stages, experimental and non-traditional spaces, conservatories and museums. Featured composers are in attendance at all events, participating in concerts, lectures and panels designed to put a public face on the art form that captures the vitality and innovations that composers of all genres bring to our communities.

Composers Now is a project partner of **The Fund for the City of New York**. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the **ASCAP Foundation**, the **BMI Foundation**, the **Cheswatyr Foundation**, the **Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation**, and the **Pocantico Arts Collaborative of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund**.

On **January 30**, the sixth annual festival begins with a massive event at *the cell*. Fifteen composers present works in two sessions, including **two world premieres**. **Tania León**, founder and artistic director of Composers Now, hosts the event. The premieres are by composer/beatboxer Rahzel and violinist Mari Kimura. Kimura developed her work, *Breuer Vivant (Breuer Living)*, during the fall of 2014 as a recipient of the inaugural Composers Now Creative Residency Award. The residency was designed in collaboration with the **Pocantico Arts Collaborative of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund**, where the residency took place.

COMPOSERS NOW 2015 KICK OFF EVENT

Friday, January 30, 7PM & 8:30

The Cell (338 West 23rd St., NYC)

Tickets: \$15 (1 session) \$25 (both sessions)

646.861.2253 / www.thecelltheatre.org

[VISIT WWW.COMPOSERS-NOW.ORG FOR AN UP-TO-DATE SCHEDULE OF THE 2015 FESTIVAL]

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COMPOSERS NOW PRESENTER PARTNERS

Joining the annual festival and Creative Composer Residencies program is the **Composers Now Presenter Partners** initiative. Launched in Fall 2014 in collaboration with presenters across the five boroughs of New York City, Composers Now uses social media to generate greater visibility for living composers throughout the year. To date, Composers Now has welcomed **Harlem Stage, I-BEAM, Jazz Gallery, Interpretations, The Cutting Room, Encompass New Opera Theatre, Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance, Firehouse Space, Streaming Museum, and Keyed Up Music Project** as partners.

TANIA LEÓN / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Tania León is a highly regarded composer and conductor recognized for her accomplishments as an educator and advisor to arts organizations. She has been the subject of profiles on ABC, CBS, CNN, PBS, Univision, Telemundo and independent films. Recent commissions include: the score for the opera, *The Little Rock Nine*, with a libretto by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., commissioned by the University of Central Arkansas's College of Fine Arts and Communications, with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation and the Fred Darragh Foundation; *Acana* for orchestra; and *Inura* for voices, strings and percussion.

Appearances as guest conductor include those with the Symphony Orchestra of Marseille, France the Gewandhausorchester Orchestra, Germany and Orquesta Sinfonica de Guanajuato, Mexico among others. Tania León's honors include the New York Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award, the ASCAP Victor Herbert Award and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. A founding member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, she instituted the Brooklyn Philharmonic Community Concert Series, was co-founder of the American Composers Orchestra "Sonidos de las Americas Festivals" and New Music Advisor to the New York Philharmonic. She has lectured at Harvard University, served as visiting professor at Yale University and as guest composer/conductor at the Hamburg Musikschule, Germany, the Beijing Central Conservatory, China and the Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, South Africa.

León has received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Colgate University, Oberlin and SUNY Purchase Colleges. She served as US Artistic Ambassador of American Culture in Madrid, Spain. A Professor at Brooklyn College since 1985, she was named Distinguished Professor of the City University of New York in 2006. In 2010 Ms. León was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

AMY FRAWLEY / PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Amy Roberts Frawley is the performing arts curator at Wave Hill in addition to her role as program director of Composers Now and for the upcoming New York run of Shirish Korde's multi-media chamber opera, *Phoolan Devi - The Bandit Queen*, at the Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater in June of 2015. She created and produces the *Keyed Up Music Project* for pianist Marc Peloquin.

Her prior organizational experience includes thirteen years as executive vice president of Concert Artists Guild and positions at John Gingrich Management, Speculum Musicae, Chamber Music International and Young Concert Artists. An active volunteerist, Ms. Frawley is a former president and current member of the board of directors of the Look & Listen Festival.

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