

Music

Pairing Composers and Orchestras, With an Eye on Younger Audiences

By Allan Kozinn

October 22, 2014 11:09 am

The League of American Orchestras has always encouraged its members to champion new music, but lately it has been particularly active in establishing programs to bring composers and orchestras together. Music by the youngest generation of composers has a proven appeal to the younger audiences that orchestras are trying to reach, and as those audiences are drawn in they are finding the appeal in older contemporary (and earlier) works as well.

The league's Music Alive: New Partnerships program, which it administers with New Music USA, is a matchmaking program of sorts. Now in its 14th year, it brings together composers and orchestras (12 each, this year) that have never worked together. Unlike many such programs, this one is not meant to expand the repertory through commissions. Instead, the program provides \$7,500 grants, underwritten by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, to cover weeklong residencies during which each participating orchestra will perform a work from the resident composer's catalog.

The composers (and orchestras) receiving this year's grants are Clarice Assad (Boston Landmarks Orchestra); Douglas J. Cuomo (Grant Park Orchestra, of Chicago); Annie Gosfield (Chautauqua Symphony); Takuma Itoh (Tucson Symphony Orchestra); Jing Jing Luo (Princeton Symphony Orchestra); Missy Mazzoli (Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra); Rick Robinson (River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, of Houston); Carl Schimmel (Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra);

Laura Schwendinger (Richmond Symphony Orchestra); Derrick Spiva (Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra), Sumi Tonooka (South Dakota Symphony Orchestra) and Dan Visconti (Arkansas Symphony Orchestra).

© 2014 The New York Times Company