

Music Alive: New Partnerships
A Residency Program of
Meet The Composer and the League of American Orchestras

Jason Freeman
Residency Proposal

As a composer, my audience - and the means by which to engage them - is often at the core of my conception of musical works. In the age of You Tube and MySpace and GarageBand, I seek to reconcile trends in user-generated content and collaborative creation with live concert performances by virtuosic musicians.

When the American Composers Orchestra commissioned me to write *Glimmer*, they asked me to create a work that used technology and was fun. My response was to involve the audience directly in the performance of the work itself, creating a visual and aural experience that brought elements of a multi-player game and a live social network into the concert hall. Each audience member waves a battery-operated light stick back and forth over the course of the piece. Computer software analyzes live video of the audience and sends instructions to each musician via multi-colored lights mounted on each player's stand. Groups of audience members must coordinate their actions in order to influence the orchestral musicians and compete against other audience groups. The music played in each live performance is unique, a result of the actions of the orchestra, the audience, and the computer software and of the relationships among them.

A residency is a natural extension of *Glimmer's* goals with respect to audience engagement. The technical requirements of the work necessitate my presence at its performance to bring the necessary equipment (computers, video cameras, etc.) and to run that equipment during rehearsals and performances. It is also important to me to work with the orchestral musicians in rehearsals to familiarize them with the unusual setup of the piece. I also like to verbally introduce the work to the audience before the performance. Additionally, I would be interested in speaking with audience members during a post-concert Q&A session or a more informal reception, so that I can learn more about their experiences participating in the piece and answer their questions.

In addition to these activities directly surrounding the performance of the work, I would want to do additional outreach activities in the local area. In workshops at elementary, middle, or high schools, I could utilize educational software programs I have developed to directly engage students in creative and collaborative music-making. I could also link those projects back to my own work as a composer. Additionally, I would be happy to give public lectures about my work to general audiences or at local universities, and I am open to using online tools (e.g. blogs) to engage in conversations that continue beyond the events themselves.

To inquire about a residency, please contact:
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