

## MetLife Creative Connections

2009-2010 Guidelines and  
Application Instructions



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## **MetLife Foundation**

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## About Meet The Composer

Meet The Composer supports the creation of new musical work and the engagement of new work with people and communities throughout the United States. We are motivated by a core belief that interaction with a living composer and his or her music has the power to invigorate and inspire musicians and audiences alike.

MTC was founded in 1974 as a project of the New York State Council on the Arts. Led by the visionary composer John Duffy, Meet The Composer soon became an independent organization dedicated to the idea of composers as active professionals with a central role in our country's musical culture. In the more than thirty years since, MTC has grown to become a truly national organization, serving in all fifty states composers and audiences of a thrillingly broad range of new music.

## The Purpose of MetLife Creative Connections

This program provides direct support to U.S. composers for the participation in public engagement activities related to specific performances of their original music. Creative Connections aims to increase awareness and enhance the creative artist's role in society by strengthening the connections between living composers, performing musicians, presenters, communities and audiences.

Since its inception in 1974, *MetLife Creative Connections* (formerly the Meet The Composer Fund) has had a profound impact on the careers of composers, making awards to almost 7,000 composers totaling over \$7.7 million, and reaching over 7.3 million people nationwide. Composers writing in all styles and genres of music including chamber, orchestral, jazz, electronic, world, experimental, theater, opera, and dance have received support through this program.

## How MetLife Creative Connections Works

Meet The Composer's *MetLife Creative Connections* program provides support for composer outreach activities including, but not limited to:

- Open workshops or lectures (including workshops/lectures in local schools/universities);
- Community outreach events;
- Pre- and/or post-performance discussions (in more traditional concert venues);
- Interaction with audience during and after the performance (in less traditional concert venues);
- Open rehearsals
- Utilization of new media technologies such as websites, blogs, online videos, podcasts, etc.
- Traditional media activity such as radio, television, or print interviews, etc.



This program is open to U.S. composers and U.S. based sponsoring organizations. Applications are submitted by the Sponsoring Organization (a presenter, ensemble, dance company, etc.) requesting support for one or more composers (up to six).

Support will range from \$250 to \$5,000. Grants are awarded to support the composer's participation fee for outreach activities. There are no limits or restrictions on the style or genre of music to be performed or presented.

Meet The Composer may decline to support an application if the request amount is significantly out-of-line with the composer's activities as outlined by the following guide. This guide should be used as a reference only. It is not intended to impose a specific nature or structure on the composer's activities.

- \$250 (minimum request amount) – the composer interacts with the audience as part of a live performance of his or her music (e.g. pre- or post-concert discussions)
- Up to \$500 – in addition to the above, the composer participates in a public activity such as an open workshop, master class, podcast, etc.
- Up to \$1,000 – the composer interacts with audiences during multiple live performances of his or her music over the course of two to three days and participates in multiple public activities such as open workshops, master classes, lectures, podcasts, interviews, etc.
- Up to \$2,500 – the composer participates in live performances of his or her music, workshops, master classes, web/radio/television interviews, open rehearsals, etc., over the course of one full week
- Up to \$5,000 (maximum request amount) – the composer interacts with audiences during multiple live performances of his or her music as part of a regional tour in which he or she also conducts workshops, master classes, web/radio/television interviews, open rehearsals, etc., over the course of at least two full weeks

Applicants are encouraged to review past awards to see the type and scope of supported projects. See <http://www.meetthecomposer.org/awards>.

## Eligibility

The Sponsoring Organization:

- Must have a history of performing, producing or co-producing arts events for at least one year prior to the application deadline
- Must demonstrate its role as the primary presenter, primary organizer, and/or primary sponsor of the activities described in the application
- Must be based in the United States
- Must have no outstanding or incomplete reports from Meet The Composer programs
- Cannot apply for more than six composers per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30)
- Cannot apply for more than \$5,000 per deadline
- Cannot receive more than \$5,000 from Creative Connections per fiscal year
- Cannot receive support for the same composer more than once per fiscal year



### The Composer:

- May be working in any style or genre of music or sound art
- Can be of any nationality but must have resided legally in the U.S. for at least one year prior to the application deadline; documentation may be requested during application review
- May not appear on more than one application per deadline
- Must have no outstanding or incomplete reports from Meet The Composer programs
- Cannot receive more than \$5,000 from MetLife Creative Connections per fiscal year

### MetLife Creative Connections does not support:

- Commissioning fees (for commissioning support, see Meet The Composer's *Commissioning Music/USA* program)
- Projects in which there is no public performance of the composer's music
- Composer activities that are not open to the general public
- Composer activities that involve only the participants of conventions or academic conferences
- Composer activities at educational institutions, unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that the activities will reach well beyond students and faculty.
- Composer activities at educational institutions where the composer is a faculty/staff member or a student
- Competitions or contests
- Benefits or fundraisers
- Production expenses (i.e. space rental, performers' fees, publicity costs, etc.)

## How To Apply

Applications are submitted on-line by authorized representatives of the sponsoring organization at [www.mtconline.org](http://www.mtconline.org). Sponsoring organizations that are applying for more than one composer during a given round must submit one application per composer. For instance, if applying for four composers the organization would submit four separate applications; one for each composer. The total requested from a sponsoring organization for all composers may not exceed \$5,000 total.

### Deadlines and Notification

**January 7** for activities beginning April – June; notification by March 1

**April 1** for activities beginning July – August; notification by June 1

**June 1** for activities beginning September – December; notification by August 1

**October 1** for activities beginning January – March; notification by December 1



Before beginning an application, read these guidelines thoroughly and have the following items prepared ahead of time:

### 1. Sponsoring Organization information

- Application contact person's name, address, phone, email
- Organization name, address, phone, email, website

### 2. Composer Information

- Name, address, website, email, phone
- Biography (1500 character limit)

### 3. Project Details

- a. Project venues, cities, and states
- b. Project start date
- c. Describe the public performances of the composer's work (1500 character limit); please provide specific information about what works are being performed, who is performing, etc.; avoid lengthy program notes or extensive descriptions of compositional processes
- d. Projected audience/attendance number
- e. Describe the planned public engagement activities related to the above performances (1500 character limit); give concise descriptions of each activity and provide dates and locations where possible
- f. Describe the impact of this project on the composer, organization, and communities involved (1500 character limit)
- g. Describe your media and publicity plans (1500 character limit)
- h. Describe any use of new media technologies to engage the composer with the community (1500 character limit); please be specific; provide addresses and other relevant details about the use of websites, videos, blogs, podcasts, etc., where possible

### 4. Budget

Expenses

- Publicity
- Production
- Administration

Income

- Foundation Grants
- Donations from Individuals
- Government Grants
- Earned Revenue

Applications can be completed all at once or in stages, but must be submitted for review by midnight eastern time on the appropriate deadline.

If the composer activities extend beyond the time frame indicated above (see page 4), apply for the deadline corresponding to when the activities begin. MetLife Creative Connections does not provide retroactive support for past composer activities. Applications will be made available and accepted no earlier than one month prior to the appropriate deadline.



Application review takes approximately two months. Notification will be made by email and sent to all artists and organizations listed on the application. Applications must include valid email addresses for the organization contact person and the composer(s). Meet The Composer is not responsible for invalid email addresses.

### **Also keep in mind:**

- Do not send scores, recordings, or other unrequested materials; they will not be reviewed or returned
- Email is our preferred method of contact. Please ensure any spam filters you use are set to allow delivery of all email from [meetthecomposer.org](http://meetthecomposer.org).
- Early notification will not be given, please do not call or email requesting such.
- All content from websites specified in any proposal material (contact information, biographies, project descriptions, etc.) can be taken into consideration in determining eligibility and in application review.

### **For questions contact:**

Scott Winship, Program Manager, [swinship@meetthecomposer.org](mailto:swinship@meetthecomposer.org)  
Derek Geary, Program Associate, [dgeary@meetthecomposer.org](mailto:dgeary@meetthecomposer.org)

### **Application Review**

Applications will first be screened by Meet The Composer program staff for clarity, completeness and eligibility. Where possible, applicants will be contacted to rectify any problems with an application.

Applications are then reviewed by an outside panel of music professionals with strong backgrounds in contemporary music (professional performers, composers, presenters, and arts administrators). Funding allocations will be made by Meet The Composer program staff based on their recommendations. Unattributed feedback from the panel will be made available to applicants upon request.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria (all are equally important). Please note, *MetLife Creative Connections* is a project-based application. There is no artistic review of the composer's music.

- Level, extent and originality of the composer's activities
- Extent to which the composer's activities are integral to the performances and other events
- Project's potential for enhancing the composer's career
- Project's potential for expanding the sponsoring organization's existing audience base or reaching into new communities
- Level of commitment of the sponsoring organization
- Significance of the composer's role in collaborative/intermedia projects (if applicable)
- Appropriateness of the amount requested
- Additionally, innovative uses of new media technology for composer engagement, although not required, will be viewed favorably by the panelists

