

“Meet The Composer has done more to change the face, nature, and status of contemporary composition than any single extant organization.” — Susan Elliott, *Musical America*

# MEET THE COMPOSER

announces the 2010 projects of

## COMMISSIONING MUSIC/USA

America's preeminent commissioning organization awards \$245,000  
for the creation of 19 new works

Classical, jazz, and theater composers collaborate with choreographers, filmmakers,  
actors, puppeteers and visual artists to develop eclectic and far-reaching performance works

August 18, 2010, NYC—Meet The Composer announces the collaborations awarded for the 2010 *COMMISSIONING MUSIC/USA* program. They are a diverse group of 19 composers and 45 choreographers, theater artists, filmmakers, and visual artists. This year, MTC awards \$245,000 to 32 organizations to commission 19 new works. Composers at the leading edge of contemporary classical, jazz, and theater music will join with a wide variety of artists to combine music with dance, theater, film, and puppetry. (For a complete lists of artists and organizations, see page 2.)

Meet The Composer president **Ed Harsh** says of this year's selections, “We are thrilled by the creative energy that MTC is able to unleash from this excitingly varied group of artistic collaborations. Audiences across the country are going to find these new works fresh and engaging.”

Some highlights from the 2010 *Commissioning Music/USA* projects:

- Composer **Amy Denio**, playwright **Dan Froot**, and puppeteer **Dan Hurlin** will create *Who's Hungry Santa Monica*, a set of three toy theatre plays with music based on the lives of homeless and hungry residents of Santa Monica, CA.
- Composer **Mark Grey** will partner with librettist **Niloufar Talebi** and visual artist **Catherine Owens** on *Atash Sorushān (Fire Angels)*, a love story between Mana (the divine life force) and Ahsha (truth/existence) that will premiere at Carnegie Hall in March 2011.
- Composer **Phil Kline** will partner with acclaimed director **Jim Jarmusch** for *Tesla*, an opera based on inventor Nikola Tesla's years in lower Manhattan.
- Composer **Elizabeth Brown** will collaborate with video artist **Lothar Osterburg** to create *A Bookmobile for Dreamers*, a multimedia chamber opera for theremin, electronic sound and video that is inspired by the joy of browsing and will celebrate the imagination as inspired by the printed word.
- Cuban born composer and saxophonist **Yosvany Terry** and poet and writer **Carl Hancock Rux** will create *Makandal*, an opera based on Rux's observance of the book “The Kingdom of This World” by Cuban novelist Alejo Carpentier that takes readers from the Haitian revolt to the rise and fall of King Henri Christophe.
- The **Queens Symphony Orchestra** will commission composer **Frank London**, working with writer **Judith Sloan**, to create, *1001 Voices, A Symphony for Queens* for singers, actors and dancers, that will tell the story of the various immigrant populations that have settled in Queens over the years.
- Composer **Hahn Rowe** and choreographer **John Jasperse** will create a new evening length project for cello, violin, percussion, and six dancers. The work will explore how one might manifest the intangible, by imparting a shimmering quality to the otherwise mundane.
- Jazz guitarist **Bill Frisell** will collaborate with renowned filmmaker **Bill Morrison** on *The Great Flood*, an evening length work of music and film that will be based on the catastrophic Mississippi River Flood of 1927 and the ensuing transformation of American society that was reflected in the world of music.

## Full list of COMMISSIONING MUSIC/USA 2010 Awards

### Composer/Collaborators (primary):

Amy Denio, Dan Froot  
Mark Grey, Niloufar Talebi  
Fang Man, Kasumi  
Phil Kline, Jim Jarmusch  
Elizabeth Brown, Lothar Osterburg  
Robert Mazurek, Marianne Kim  
Yosvany Terry, Carl Hancock Rux  
Juraj Kojs, Alexey Taran  
Robert Mirabal, Eiko and Koma Otake  
Wayne Horvitz, Robin Holcomb  
Diedre Murray, Cornelius Eady  
Corey Dargel, Andrew Sean Greer  
Frank London, Judith Sloan  
Victor Adan, Douglas Repetto  
Hahn Rowe, John Jasperse  
Christopher Jonas  
Jonathan Bepler, Wally Cardona  
Bill Frisell, Bill Morrison  
David Bithell, Ali Momeni

### Lead Commissioner:

501 (see three) ARTS  
Carnegie Hall  
Dolce Suono Chamber Music Concert Series  
Duke University/Duke Performance  
Electronic Music Foundation  
Festival of New Trumpet Music  
Harlem Stage  
Harold Golen Gallery  
Inta, Inc.  
Jack Straw Productions  
Music-Theatre Group, Inc.  
Newspeak  
Queens Symphony Orchestra  
Talea Ensemble  
Thin Man Dance  
TILT Brass  
WCV, Inc.  
Wexner Center for the Arts  
Yarn/Wire

For two decades, **Meet The Composer's commissioning programs** have facilitated the creation *and multiple performances* of over 1,300 works by many of America's most exciting contemporary composers. Examples of celebrated works that MTC has commissioned include: John Adams's opera *The Death of Klinghoffer* and Andre Previn's opera *A Streetcar Named Desire*; orchestral works such as John Corigliano's *Symphony No. 1*, Philip Glass's *Concerto Fantasy*, and William Bolcolm's *Symphony No. 6*; multimedia pieces such as Meredith Monk's *Mercy* and Paul Dresher's *Sound Stage*; dance collaborations such as Lou Harrison's *Rhymes with Silver* (Mark Morris Dance Group) and Zakir Hussain's *Flammable Contents*; and ensemble works such as Tan Dun's *Concerto for Six Players*, John Harbison's *Flashes and Illuminations*, and Julia Wolfe's *Early That Summer*.

### ABOUT COMMISSIONING MUSIC/USA

**COMMISSIONING MUSIC/USA** is a landmark commissioning program developed by Meet The Composer in response to a critical need on the part of the music community. **COMMISSIONING MUSIC/USA** provides national support for the commissioning and multiple performances of new works representing all styles of music. The program provides support for emerging and established composers, promotes wider knowledge and appreciation of contemporary works, and encourages organizations to work together to build the repertoire for new music. Commissioning Music/USA is made possible by generous support from the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, the Ford Foundation, the Francis Goellet Charitable Lead Trusts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Helen F. Whitaker Fund.

The **submission deadline and guidelines for the 2011 round** of **COMMISSIONING MUSIC/USA** will be posted on MTC's website in the fall of 2010: [www.meetthecomposer.org](http://www.meetthecomposer.org). For further information, contact MTC's **Program Department at (212) 645-6949**.

### ABOUT MEET THE COMPOSER

**Meet The Composer** is a national organization founded in 1974 that has revolutionized the environment for composers in this country. Its mission is to increase opportunities for composers of every style of music by fostering the creation, performance, dissemination, and appreciation of their work. In so doing, Meet The Composer has radically expanded the repertoire of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, creating a legacy for the music of our time—over 1,300 new works have been added since MTC's first commissioning program was launched in 1988. Meet The Composer's core programs include **Commissioning Music/USA**; **Cary New Music Performance Fund**; **Music Alive**; and **MetLife Creative Connections** (formerly the *Meet The Composer Fund*). The impact of these programs is felt in all 50 states and involves approximately 300 composers annually, representing the full spectrum of contemporary American culture and such idioms as classical, opera, jazz, folk, ethnic, electronic, and more. Meet The Composer is currently engaged in a number of special projects designed to further its vision—that composers should become an integral part of the cultural life and creative output of their communities, and that their music find broad, new audiences and benefit communities across the country.

**ATTACHED IS A COMPLETE LIST OF COMPOSERS, COLLABORATORS, PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS, AND SUMMARIES FOR COMMISSIONING MUSIC/USA 2010...**

More info is available at: [www.meetthecomposer.org](http://www.meetthecomposer.org)