



Selected Workshops and Festivals for Composers

Compiled by the [Music Entrepreneurship & Career Center](#), Updated August 2016

CALIFORNIA

[Cabrillo Festival Conductors/Composers Workshop](#)

When: 5 days, late July – early August

Location: Santa Cruz

Cost: See site; fellowships available.

Summary: Marin Alsop leads this event in which faculty composers and conductors workshop participating composers' pieces and mentor conducting fellows.

Participating composers receive premieres and recordings from the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra.

[California Summer Music](#)

When: 3 weeks, July

Location: Sonoma State University

Cost (2016): \$2,400 (tuition), \$2,700 (room and board). Scholarships available.

Summary: Composers receive eight private lessons and get to participate in master classes and composer colloquia. Past faculty members have included Gabriela Lena Frank, Chen Yi, George Tsontakis, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, and others. Composers will have works performed on the final concert. The participating performers are all pianists and string players.

COLORADO

[Aspen Music Festival](#)

When: Six weeks, June – August

Location: Aspen

Cost (2016): \$3,800 (tuition), \$4,050 (housing and fees). Financial aid, scholarships available.

Summary: Private composition lessons, master classes, and lectures by prominent figures in contemporary music as well as readings and recordings by the attending performers (chamber ensembles and orchestras).

CONNECTICUT

[Norfolk Chamber Music Festival New Music Workshop](#)

When: 2 Weeks, late June – early July

Location: Norfolk

Cost: Full fellowships for all participants

Summary: North America's oldest summer music festival. Up to five composers get to collaborate with 10 performers (different instrumental focus for each season) and work with preeminent American composers and performers on the faculty.

MAINE

[Atlantic Music Festival](#)

When: 4 weeks, mid-July – mid-August

Location: Colby College, Waterville

Cost (2016): \$4,225. Full fellowships and financial aid available.

Summary: Students may have works read by the resident orchestra and contemporary ensemble and participate in master classes and daily meetings with composition teachers.

[Bowdoin International Music Festival](#)

When: 6 weeks, June – August, or 3 weeks (June-July or July-August)

Location: Bowdoin College, Brunswick

Cost (2016): Full session: \$5,150 - \$6,550 depending on housing; half session: \$2,850 - \$3,650

Summary: Generous time to compose, individual lessons, group instruction, and a concert of participating composers' works. Also a yearly composition contest.

MASSACHUSETTS

[Bang on a Can Summer Festival](#)

When: 2 weeks, late July – mid-August

Location: Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams

Cost (2016): \$2,900

Summary: Run by the new music collective Bang on a Can, attending composers work closely with faculty and participating performers and attend daily seminars. There are also several daily recitals within the museum galleries.

[Tanglewood Music Center](#)

When: 2 months, June–August

Location: Lenox

Cost: Full fellowship provided to all participants. \$210 registration fee.

Summary: Operated by the Boston Symphony, this is a major festival during which composer Fellows get to have works read by BSO and participant musicians totaling at least three performances of their works.

MINNESOTA

[Zeitgeist Composer Workshop](#)

When: 5 days, August

Location: St. Paul

Cost: Contact organization

Summary: Zeitgeist, a new music quartet based in St. Paul, hosts a five-day workshop for composers in which participants do not necessarily complete a composition but work closely with Zeitgeist, using the ensemble as a laboratory to test out compositional ideas.

MISSOURI

[Mizzou International Composers Festival](#)

When: 1 week, July

Location: University of Missouri, Columbia

Cost: Full fellowship for all participants

Summary: The University of Missouri-Columbia's New Music Initiative hosts new music orchestra Alarm Will Sound and eight selected participating composers who write pieces for the ensemble's complete instrumentation. Workshops with prominent composers are included.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

[Creative Musicians' Retreat at the Walden School](#)

When: 1 week, June

Location: The Dublin School, Dublin

Cost (2016): \$2,050 (tuition, room, and board), scholarships available

Summary: Open to composers, electronic musicians, improvisers, performers of new music, choral musicians, and music teachers, the program hosts a week of composers forums, concerts, presentations, and workshops.

NORTH CAROLINA

[Brevard Music Center Festival](#)

When: 8 weeks, June-August

Location: Brevard Music Center, Brevard

Cost (2016): \$6400, scholarships available

Summary: Large music festival in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina that offers private lessons and daily seminars for composers as well as collaborations with performers in the new music ensemble *itch*. During the last week of the season, the Brevard Sinfonia dedicates a session to reading and recording student composers' works.

NEW YORK

[Copland House - Cultivate](#)

When: 1 week, June

Where: Copland House (an hour north of NYC)

Cost: Full fellowship for all participants

Summary: Each Fellow composes a 5-7 minute small ensemble composition which is work shopped by the Music from Copland House ensemble. The week culminates in a final concert and live recording session of the pieces.

[Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival](#)

When: 1 week, July-August

Where: Lincoln Center, NYC

Cost (2016): \$800-1200 depending on program, scholarships available

Summary: Hosted by the wind quintet Imani Winds, composers get readings with Imani Winds, interactive workshops on writing for winds, collaboration with participating ensembles, and master classes with visiting composers.

[June in Buffalo](#)

When: 1 week, June

Where: University at Buffalo

Cost (2012): \$725

Summary: Brings together preeminent American composers and contemporary ensembles. Includes seminars, workshops, forums, and open rehearsals. Participating student composers have a piece performed during the festival.

SOUTH CAROLINA

[Nief-Norf Summer Festival](#)

When: 2 weeks, May-June

Where: Furman University, Greenville

Cost (2016): \$1900

Summary: Produced by the chamber percussion collective Nief-Norf Project, this festival focuses on new works for chamber percussion. Resident composers will have private lessons, access to all rehearsals, and will prepare one original composition for the final performance.

VERMONT

[New Music on the Point](#)

When: 2 weeks, June

Where: Point Counterpoint, LakeDunmore

Cost (2016): \$2,500

Summary: Small chamber music festival for composers and performers dedicated to new music. Located on scenic Lake Dunmore in Vermont, the program offers private lessons, instrumental coachings, visiting master artists, and concerts of participant premieres.

VIRGINIA

[John Duffy Composers Institute](#)

When: two weeks, July

Where: Norfolk, VA

Cost: Full fellowship for all participants

Summary: Fellows workshop excerpts of in-progress operas & work with

professional vocalists to refine their operas while being coached by stage directors, music directors, and acclaimed composers.

[Wintergreen Performing Arts](#)

When: 4 weeks, July-August

Where: Wintergreen resort (near Charlottesville)

Cost (2014): \$2,000 (tuition), \$1,500 (room and board). Financial aid available.

Summary: Participating composers get five private lessons with faculty and a 10-minute work performed by a resident ensemble. Composers can also attend rhythmic notation workshops and master classes with performers.

WISCONSIN

[Fresh Inc. Festival](#)

When: 2 weeks, June

Where: Carthage College, Kenosha

Cost (2015): \$2,000. Scholarships available.

Summary: Dedicated to new chamber music, composers work with instrumentalists and ensembles made up of student participants and the resident Fifth House Ensemble. There are also music entrepreneurship workshops, free headshots, and performances in Chicago & Milwaukee.

International

CANADA

[Le Domaine Forget](#)

When: 2 months, mid-July-September

Where: St. Irénée, Quebec

Cost: See site for details.

Summary: Numerous composers and performers study with respected artists.

FRANCE

[Acanthes at IRCAM](#)

When: 2 weeks, late June – early July

Where: Paris

Cost (2012): €300 (tuition), housing not available.

Summary: These workshops take place at Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique (IRCAM) at the Centre Pompidou in Paris. Participating composers get to work with faculty composers and the ensembles in residence, earning recordings and performances of the pieces they compose. There is also a focus on computer music and new music technology.

GERMANY

[Darmstadt International Summer Course for New Music](#)

When: 2 weeks, July, even-numbered years (2014, 2016, etc.)

Where: Darmstadt

Cost: See site for more information. Some stipends available for participants.

Summary: This large festival, begun in 1946, features around-the-clock seminars, workshops, lessons, and lectures for emerging composers.

ITALY

[Cortona Sessions for New Music](#)

When: 2 weeks, June

Where: Cortona, Tuscany

Cost (2016): \$2,050 (tuition and room + breakfasts). Scholarship available to composition contest winner.

Summary: Composers work closely with performers, including faculty and other performers, take individual composition lessons, and receive premieres of works at the final concerts.

[highSCORE Festival](#)

When: 2 weeks, July-August

Where: Pavia

Cost (2012): €1,699 (full program), €1,199 (“light” program).

Summary: Participating composers receive private lessons with faculty, daily lectures on contemporary music, and attend a composition colloquium. There are also chamber music concerts dedicated to new music.

[SoundSCAPE Festival](#)

When: 2 weeks, July

Where: Maccagno

Cost (2016): \$2,000 (tuition and room).

Summary: Chamber music festival located in the Italian Alps near Milan. Composers work closely with performers and attend workshops in improvisation, contemporary performance techniques, and career development.