

Composition Honors Program 2019-20

Overview

The Hartt Community Division Composition Honors Program is intended to provide mentorship and performance opportunities to advanced composition students entering grades 9-12. Upon successful application to the program, each Honors Composer will be paired up with a Community Division performer or ensemble to create a new work to be premiered in Spring 2020. Additionally, students will receive mentorship from the Composition and Musicians Chair, as well as our Graduate Composition Fellow.

Collaborations are arranged by the Composition and Musicianship Chair. These projects differ each year, and past Honors partnerships have been arranged with HCD soloists and chamber ensembles, Opus '89 string orchestra, Philharmonia Winds, the Connecticut Youth Symphony, and the Dance Department. The exact nature and timeline for each Honors Composition project will be decided early in the Fall semester.

After receiving their assigned collaboration, students will meet with the Creative Studies Chair and other relevant personnel, observe rehearsals of their collaborating ensemble/performer, and compose their works. While they are composing, they will meet with the Creative Studies Chair and the Graduate Fellow for private mentoring. In the spring, participants will attend rehearsals as needed and will attend the performance of their work. Three additional services to be determined by the Creative Studies Chair in conjunction with the selected composer will also be required (for example, answering interview questions for social media, visiting musicianship classes, presenting at an HCD event, etc.).

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the Honors Composition program, students must:

- complete at least one year of composition studies at the Hartt Community Division (in the Young Composers Project or privately) prior to applying
- continue to participate in YCP and/or a comparable amount of private lessons during the year in which they are completing their Honors collaboration

The ideal candidate will have experience composing for acoustic instruments and/or electronics. They will be comfortable speaking about their music in public as well as interacting with student musicians and faculty coaches in rehearsals. They must also be able to create clear and legible scores/parts for performance while meeting strict deadlines and communicating with collaborators in a timely fashion.

Application Process

The Honors Composers will be selected through a competitive process. Students must submit an application including:

- [A completed online application form](https://forms.gle/EPCUE8rs5SwCwZ-fU8) available at <https://forms.gle/EPCUE8rs5SwCwZ-fU8>
- A score, sample part (for any work with 2 or more performers), and recording for two completed works. Scores and parts should be sent as PDFs, and recordings as mp3s. Recordings should be of live performers (not MIDI), unless the work is specifically composed for electronics. These materials should be uploaded to the online application form as a single .zip file labeled LastName-Honors2019.

When preparing your application, keep in mind the following:

- Scores/parts should be clean and legible.
- Send recordings of live musicians (unless the work is composed for electronics). Do not send a MIDI recording of a work intended for live performers.
- There is no maximum or minimum duration for works submitted. Compositions written for HICO workshops are acceptable.
- Proofread your answers to the questions on the application form. Your written descriptions of your musical experience and why you are interested in the Honors Composition program will help to give the judges a sense of how well you are able to speak about your music, as will the Audition Day interviews.

Applications must be received by June 1, 2019. Upon receipt of the completed application, Jessica Rudman will contact each applicant to schedule an interview at the HCD Audition Day on June 9. Applicants will be notified of their status by July 1, 2019, and a public announcement of the selected composers and their assigned collaborations will be made in the fall.

Any questions about the Composition Honors Program or the application process should be addressed to Jessica Rudman at rudman@hartford.edu.