

SFCCO Composer Guidelines 2008-2009

The San Francisco Composers Chamber Orchestra is comprised of composer-members who play each other's music. Any exceptions are at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

General Guidelines

You, the composer, are eligible to have one piece, up to 15 minutes long, performed in an SFCCO concert if you either:

- commit to performing in that concert and one other in the same season (fall to summer), or
- fund (endow) a performer for that concert and one other in the same season (\$850 total starting July 2008).

If a program has not filled up by the deadline, you can submit a piece even if you have already had your allotted performance. However, priority will be given to composers who haven't had a piece played.

The "guaranteed" instrumentation, which can vary, will be sent to composers at least three months before the concert. Feel free to use these instruments. If you want extra instruments (e.g., trombone or a second percussionist), you will need to make arrangements to hire them. Often a cooperative arrangement among several composers is possible.

In order to be programmed, you need to notify the Board of Directors (board@sfcco.org) of your intentions by the deadline (usually 2-3 months before the upcoming concert). At that time, you need to provide a title, instrumentation (including percussion) and approximate duration. You must then send a non-reduced bound score and instrumental parts to the designated Librarian and an additional copy of the score (preferably bound) to the Music Director by the deadline (usually 6-8 weeks before the concert). Include a list of required instrumentation, including percussion. Program notes and a short bio should be e-mailed to a designated SFCCO Board member (as of this writing, Rachel Condry). If you are an endower, payment is due.

Scores will be reviewed for legibility and "playability"; SFCCO may request revisions. The librarian will subsequently distribute parts to the players. As a practical matter, composers should consider the balance between technical difficulty and limited rehearsal time (30 minutes).

There are four rehearsals and one concert in each set. Rehearsals are three hours long, from 7:00-10:00pm, with one 15-minute break. Musicians should arrive 15 minutes before the downbeat. The concert begins at 8:00pm. If your piece is being performed you must be at all rehearsals.

Performers are requested to practice parts, if necessary, before the first rehearsal. Pieces will be allotted rehearsal time roughly proportional to their length. Details will be e-mailed via the SFCCO members Yahoo! list as they become available (see *Online Resources* below).

The concert, and sometimes dress rehearsals, will be recorded for archival, promotional, and fundraising purposes. The cost of this is split among the composers (\$35-60 each).

Other Participation

SFCCO provides promotional postcards and sends out press releases to the local press. *You are strongly encouraged to assist by distributing postcards and e-mail announcements to your mailing lists, and making contacts for each concert!* Although much of the SFCCO's success is fueled by composer volunteers, there is a never-ending need to raise awareness and funds every year to pay for rehearsal spaces, promotion, hired players, and other operational expenses.

We are affiliated with The Lab, a nonprofit organization, and members are encouraged to find donations from interested members of the community.

Members are welcome to attend Board meetings. There will be a meeting for all members once or twice a year.

Let the Board know if you are affiliated with BMI or ASCAP.

Online Resources

Information about past and upcoming concerts is maintained on our website (<http://www.sfcco.org>). This is the SFCCO's primary resource for anyone who may be interested in attending a concert, learning about the SFCCO, or donating.

Announcements for member-composers are through our Yahoo! Group. All composer-members must be signed up to this group in order to receive notifications about upcoming events, including rehearsals and concerts.

If you have difficulties or questions with these on-line resources, contact any member of the Board.