

SFCCO Composer Guidelines 2012-2013

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 Music Director.

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 series and one other in the same season (fall to summer), or
- fund (endow) a performer for that concert series and one other in the same season.

For the 2012-2013 season, we anticipate concerts that will require five services for both the Fall and Spring concerts (4 rehearsals, and a concert). Performers must commit to all services, in both concert series, to be eligible for a piece to be played. Endowers must fund 10 services (\$850). (Keep in mind that performance royalties from ASCAP or BMI will offset a significant portion of this expense; see "Other Costs", below.)

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 three months before the concert. Feel free to use these instruments. If you want extra instruments (e.g., tuba 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 SFCCO Board (board@sfcco.org) of your intentions by the deadline (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 by the deadline (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 the SFCCO Board. If you are an endower, payment is due.

Scores will be reviewed for legibility and "playability"; SFCCO may request revisions. We seek clarity in scores and parts to make the most of our limited rehearsal times. Avoid collisions, aberrant measure sizes and note spacings, inappropriate chords or staves, etc. The librarian will subsequently distribute parts to the players.

While composers should feel free to write for any subset of the ensemble, we encourage the composition of pieces that utilize the full group, with interesting parts for all. And as a practical matter, composers should consider the balance between technical difficulty and limited rehearsal time.

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. Rehearsal time for each piece is assigned at the discretion of the Music Director, and is roughly proportional to the piece's length; generally, no more than 30 minutes can be spent on any single work during a rehearsal.

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).

Other Costs

The concert, and sometimes dress rehearsals, will be recorded for archival and fundraising purposes. The cost of this is split among the composers (\$25-50 each). We also ask all composers for \$30 annually to help defray SFCCO's licensing fees; you'll make this back (and then some!), when you receive royalties associated with the performance from ASCAP or BMI. Let the Board know if you are affiliated with BMI or ASCAP. If you don't know how to register your works and get paid for performances, any SFCCO Board member will be glad to help you through the process.

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. We are currently investigating other means for nonprofit status; contact the Board if you have questions.

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

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, hearing excerpts from past concerts, 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.

To sign up to Yahoo! Groups, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com>. Click on "Sign Up" and you'll be prompted to create a user identity and password. (If you already have an I.D., there's no need to do this again.)

To get to the SFCCO Yahoo group:

- go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SFCCOMembers/>
- If you aren't already signed in, click on "Sign In" where you'll be prompted for your Yahoo user ID and password.
- Click on "Join This Group", fill in the short form, and click on "Join" at the bottom of the page.

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