



Credit: Alfred Kan

COLABORATORY

Program Guide

OVERVIEW

**CoLABoratory Fellowships
advance the work of
composers whose work is
experimental and/or rooted in
traditions underrepresented in
the orchestral repertoire.**

CoLABoratory addresses systemic barriers within orchestral commissioning, providing a gateway to the field and a generative environment for composers from any and all musical backgrounds to create definition-expanding works for orchestra. Instead of providing a written score, composers submit an idea that is developed in partnership with the orchestra through an artist-led process.

EarShot is a program of the American Composers Orchestra, in partnership with American Composers Forum, the League of American Orchestras, and New Music USA.

VIDEO:
CoLABoratory Showcase
June 11, 2023



Discover Adventurous Artists

ACO's broad and inclusive recruitment efforts identify and curate creative artists aligned with each orchestra's programming goals and priorities

Engage Your Donors

CoLABoratory creates new opportunities for philanthropic support, including readings, commissions, residency activities, educational programs, and cultivation events

Develop New Audiences

ACO staff works hand-in-hand with partner orchestras to design educational programming and community-focused events as an extension of CoLABoratory programming

Extend Your Reach

At a fraction of the cost of building an in-house recruitment and readings program, ACO has a proven track record of identifying composers whose work expands the definition of American orchestral music

HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2023–24 season, seven new works for orchestra have been workshopped by ACO and CoLABoratory partners the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra and Tucson Symphony Orchestra. Composers and works include:

- Guillermo Klein, *The Kingdom*
- John Glover & Kelley Rourke, *Right Now*
- Kebra-Seyoun Charles, *Bass Concerto: Nightlife*
- Michael Begay, *Diné Thought/Life Process*
- Kite, *Wičhíŋčala Šakówin*
- Laura Ortman, *Unsunderable Glisten of the Ices*
- Raven Chacon, *Title TBA*

CoLABoratory Fellow Kite, Workshop with South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, March 2024. Photo by Serge van Neck.



PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- National call for proposals, identifying artists whose work is aligned with the goals of the orchestra and initiative
- Intake meetings between composer and ACO staff to shape the development process and identify needed external collaborators to complete the project
- Orientation between composer, ACO staff, partner orchestra staff, and any external collaborators to kick off the process and identify opportunities for public engagement
- 2-3 generative workshops with ensembles of increasing size (chamber to full orchestra), each preceded by prep meetings with ACO artistic staff
- Rehearsal period (2-3 rehearsals) and performance of work
- As appropriate, inclusion of the work in ACO's [EarShot Publishing](#) initiative, driving repeat performances with other orchestras
- ACO-led preparation of scores, in partnership with copyists and partner orchestra librarians
- 2-3 reading services with orchestra, composers, and established mentor composers
- Opportunities for feedback from orchestra musicians, librarian, and conductor, leading to score revisions
- Relationship building and professional development opportunities
- Composer-led activities in community spaces and educational settings
- A pipeline to extended commissioning opportunities

*CoLABoratory Fellow Trevor New, CoLABoratory
Showcase Concert, June 2023. Photo by Alfred Kan.*



ACO PROVIDES

- Travel to CoLABoratory partner orchestra city/venue, lodging, and ground transportation
- Facilitation and review of CoLABoratory applications
- Collection and review of all orchestral materials for selected works to ensure scores and parts are of a professional quality
- Professional development workshops with mentors and industry leaders for participating composers
- Communication with CoLABoratory partners including the American Composers Orchestra, League of American Orchestras, American Composers Forum, and New Music USA
- Materials in support of publicity, promotions, and program for the event
- A detailed production schedule and optimal timeline
- 1-2 staff members to facilitate CoLABoratory sessions
- Collaboration with orchestra staff in engaging donors and planning events for supporters and community partners
- Support for building consortia for CoLABoratory-developed compositions

CoLABoratory Fellow Marcus Gilmore, CoLABoratory Showcase Concert, June 2023. Photo by Alfred Kan.



ORCHESTRAS PROVIDE

- Two or more orchestral services for workshops plus premiere rehearsal/performance cycle
- Engagement with staff, conductor, and other internal stakeholders to facilitate planning for project events
- Venue for workshops, rehearsals, and performances
- Catering for working meals while in session during the residency period
- At least one quality recording of each participant's workshopped composition
- Library support for preparation and dissemination of parts and scores and return of performance materials to each featured artist
- Pre/post-event feedback sessions with conductor and musician liaisons

*CoLABoratory Fellow Yvette Janine Jackson, ACO
Carnegie Hall concert. Photo by Alfred Kan.*



ALUMNI

Recent CoLABoratory Artists

- inti figgis-vizueta
- Marcus Gilmore
- Yvette Janine Jackson
- Trevor New
- Mendi + Keith Obadike

2023–24 & Beyond

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Edmar Castañeda | • Suzanne Kite |
| • Raven Chacon | • Guillermo Klein |
| • Kebra-Seyoun Charles | • Laura Ortman |
| • John Glover & Kelley Rourke | • Joseph C. Phillips Jr. |



CoLABoratory Fellow Marcus Gilmore with mentor Zakir Hussain and guest poet Tracy K. Smith, CoLABoratory Showcase Concert, June 2023. Photo by Alfred Kan.

PARTNER ORCHESTRAS

Recent CoLABoratory Partners

- Dallas Symphony Orchestra
-
- South Dakota Symphony Orchestra
-
- Tucson Symphony Orchestra
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CoLABoratory Fellow Raven Chacon, Workshop with Tucson Symphony Orchestra, March 2024.

"The CoLABoratory workshop was enriching for everyone involved. I particularly valued seeing Raven Chacon coach and mentor Kite and Michael Begay, and how their work evolved with the feedback from symphony musicians. Everyone entered the workshop with an experimental frame of mind, where there were no right or wrong ideas. Very freeing in our classical music environment!"

– South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (2024)



CoLABoratory Fellow Michael Begay, Workshop with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, March 2024. Photo by Serge van Neck.

“This program is a fantastic opportunity to work with these talented Native American composers as they develop their original works for full orchestra. This has been a special and rare opportunity for us to collaborate with Raven Chacon on our co-commission ahead of its premiere.”

**– Tucson Symphony Orchestra
(2024)**



CoLABoratory Fellow Raven Chacon, in dialogue with stakeholders at the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, March 2024. Photo by Curtis Stewart.

OUR SUPPORTERS

CoLABoratory is part of ACO's EarShot, a program of American Composers Orchestra completed in partnership with American Composers Forum, the League of American Orchestras, and New Music USA.

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CoLABoratory Fellows Mendi + Keith Obadike during a talkback after CoLABoratory Showcase Concert, June 2023. Photo by Alfred Kan.



LET'S TALK

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