

Young Composers Project @ Hartt

Striving for academic achievement in a diverse society
Hartt Community Division, University of Hartford

Connecticut has a long tradition of strong performing ensembles. Bands, orchestras and choruses have been the main focus of public and private music schools. However, this tradition has sometimes led to the neglect of other musical talents. Some students may have greater or equal strengths in composition, which is not a focus of many school music programs. The Young Composers Project aims to help students develop such untapped talents, while stimulating student interest and achievement in music composition and music technology in a diverse educational setting.

The project is under the artistic direction of Ken Steen who is an Associate Professor of Composition and Theory at the Hartt School and an active composer creating music in a variety of genres and styles. He has been the recipient of a significant number of grants and commissions and his music has been performed internationally. Classes will be taught by Professor Steen and Jessica Rudman, a local composer currently serving as an adjunct instructor at Central Connecticut State University.

As members of this project, students will work in small groups with one of the faculty composers. Students will learn to use notation or MIDI sequencing and digital audio software to communicate their musical ideas as well as compositional techniques used to create music. Our goal is to provide each student with the skills to develop his/her own voice as a composer, and small class size will allow students to spend a considerable amount of time on individual projects. This year, we will be offering four class levels:

- Electronic Music Composition: a class designed to teach students how to compose music using computers. Students who do not read traditional music notation and/or students with a special interest in electronic music may request to be placed into this class. No prior experience is required.
- Intro to Music Composition: a beginner level designed to teach students to compose music using standard notation. No prior experience is required, though students must be able to read music.
- Intermediate Music Composition: designed to teach both returning students, and new students with *some* compositional experience, how to improve their compositional technique. For placement in this level, new students should submit the score for a work-in-progress or completed piece with their registration materials.
- Advanced Music Composition: intended for new or returning students with broader compositional experience, this class is designed to challenge young composers to create works of greater depth and/or scale. For placement in this level, students should submit the score for a completed piece with their registration materials.

Please Note: the levels of the classes listed above will be based upon student interest. On the registration form, students should check off any times they can attend and the level at which they would prefer to be placed.

Classes will start on November 17, 2009 and will run through May. In addition to these classes, there will periodically be workshops with special guest artists as well as a special composition festival at the end of the year that will feature student work and celebrate the accomplishments of each student. A calendar of class meetings and special events will be handed out at the beginning of the year.

The project is offered to students enrolled in grades 7 – 12 for \$350/year (+ a \$25 registration fee). To enroll in the class, please fill out the attached registration materials. New students will need to submit the enclosed form expressing a strong interest in learning how to compose. For new students wishing to be placed in at an intermediate or advanced level, you must also include a completed piece.

Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Registration materials must be received by Friday, November 13th. Students will be contacted via email by Monday, Nov. 16th to confirm enrollment and class time. Participants are encouraged to bring the following materials to class: blank manuscript paper, a pencil, a thumb drive or other way to back up files, and any previous compositions. Students who have laptop computers that they would like to use in class are welcome to bring those as well. Registration materials can be mailed to address below. Questions about the class can be forwarded to Ken Steen at steen@hartford.edu.

Send registration materials to:

Hartt Community Division
c/o Jessica Rudman
200 Bloomfield Ave
West Hartford, CT 06117

Young Composers Project @ Hartt "2009-2010"

STUDENT INTEREST FORM
(for new students *only*)

* If additional space is needed to answer any questions, please attach a separate sheet with your name on it *

Student's name: _____

I am very interested in participating in this project because: _____

By participating in this project I hope to learn: _____

Describe your previous musical experience: _____

Can you read music? (*For placement purposes only.*) _____

Have you ever studied music theory? (*For placement purposes only.*) _____

If so, how much? _____

Describe your previous compositional experience, if any:
(*Please note that no prior experience is necessary.*)

Student's signature _____

YOUNG COMPOSERS PROJECT @ HARTT "2009-2010" REGISTRATION FORM
(Please print)

Student's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____ Student's Grade in School: _____

School student attends: _____

Any medical/health condition we should be aware of? Yes No

If yes, explain _____

Please check off **any and all** sessions the student can attend:

Tuesday 5:30 – 6:30 pm Tuesday 6:30 – 7:30 pm Thursday 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Sunday 1:45 – 2:45 pm Sunday 3 – 4 pm Sunday 4:15 – 5:15 pm

Please indicate which class level the student would prefer to be placed in:

Intro to Electronic Music Composition Intro to Music Composition
Intermediate Composition Advanced Composition

Given sufficient student interest, it may be possible to offer a class at another time. If there are other times, you would like to see a class offered this year or in the future, please indicate those days and times here: _____

Students will be contacted via email by Monday, Nov. 6th to confirm enrollment and class time.

Payment Information: \$350/year for tuition + a \$25 registration fee

Total Enclosed (at least 1/2): _____ Check # (payable to "University of Hartford"): _____

Credit Card (2.75% service charge): Mastercard Discover AmEx (Sorry, VISA not accepted) Number: _____

Security Code: _____ Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS: Registration Forms, Checks, Money Orders and Travelers Checks should be made payable to UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD and mailed to: Hartt Community Division Office, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford CT 06117. Any subsequent bill payments should be mailed to University of Hartford; PO Box 80,000-Dept. 365; West Hartford, CT 06180-0365. Payment is also accepted in any Community Division office. Checks returned for insufficient funds or stop payment will result in a \$15 fee. MasterCard, American Express and Discover Cards are accepted online, by phone or at the offices with a 2.75% processing surcharge on the amount paid in each transaction. The University of Hartford does not accept VISA. **DEFAULT CHARGES:** A default charge equal to 1.5% of the unpaid balance is assessed each month on all past due accounts. The University requires that all remittances be in the form of U.S. Currency and that your check/money order be payable in U.S. Dollars through a financial institution with an office in the United States. Any fees charged to the University by our bank for processing checks through a foreign collection agency will become the responsibility of the student.

Registration Signature (parent or guardian):

_____ My signature indicates my agreement for my child to participate in the Music Composition Program and agree to the tuition charges due. I understand and agree that refunds are not granted for any reason after my child attends the first class. I agree and abide to all other Hartt Community Division policies as described on the website: www.hcd.hartford.edu.

YOUNG COMPOSERS PROJECT @ HARTT "2009-2010"

Hartt Community Division

Release Form

I realize that I will assume all the responsibility for transporting my child to and from these sessions. I will not hold The Hartt School Community Division, University of Hartford responsible for any injuries incurred when traveling to and from this program or related activities.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Release made _____, 2009 by _____
Parent/Guardian

City of _____, County of _____, State of _____.

As parent/guardian of _____, of _____
Name of child or ward Specify child's address if different

_____ (child or ward) has my permission to participate in the Music Composition Program. I hereby release and discharge the University of Hartford, its agents, employees and officers, from all claims, demands, actions, judgments and executions which the undersigned ever had, or now has, or may have against the University of Hartford, its successors or assigns, for all personal injuries, known or unknown and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by or arising out of, participation in the above named program.

I, the undersigned, have read this release and understand all its items. I execute it voluntarily with full knowledge of its significance.

In witness whereof, I have executed this release at _____ (designated place of execution) the day and year first written above.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

I give permission to have my child photographed or videotaped for the purpose of program documentation and public relations.

Signature of Parent/Guardian