

NC NEWMUSIC INITIATIVE, EST. 2001

EDWARD JACOBS, FOUNDING DIRECTOR

HISTORY

From 2001-2014, the NEWMUSIC@ECU Festival brought a series of five-seven concerts of provocative and engaging contemporary music to Greenville, NC stages. Hundreds of guest artists—composers, soloists and ensembles—have lent their voices, expertise and perspective to Master Classes, discussions about the arts and contemporary culture, and intensively focused work with students, faculty and audiences.

Over the course of fourteen festivals we have presented nearly 560 compositions that have never been heard in this region, including over 144 world premiere performances and numerous commissions. Audiences have heard dozens of concerts, with performers coming from as far away as the California, Boston, New York City, Chicago, St. Louis, Florida, and as close as Winston-Salem, Durham, Greensboro, and Chapel Hill.

In 2014, a newly expanded mission added programs in commissioning, audience engagement, and community involvement, and a new name reflects this broadened reach: we are now the NORTH CAROLINA NEWMUSIC INITIATIVE.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The goals of the initiative are twofold: to build a diverse audience base through events featuring extraordinary artists, and to be a forum for interaction with the composers and performers who are driving our continually evolving music-making and music-listening world.

An integral part of the NEWMUSIC INITIATIVE is a composer-in-residence program. Each year, nationally recognized composers are invited to our community. These composers conduct Master Classes with graduate and undergraduate composition students at ECU, coach performers, discuss their works through pre-concert lectures, and meet with audiences at post-concert receptions.

Central to the initiative's mission of uncovering new ideas is a composition competition open to applicants worldwide. The winners' music is rehearsed, performed and recorded by an ensemble of ECU School of Music performers. The 2001 and 2002 festivals presented works for chamber ensembles, and the 2003 and 2004 festivals focused on choral music. In 2005 we began an annual Orchestral Composition Competition which now annually attracts hundreds of submissions from the world over, with entrants from every continent. The competition has become a highlight of our orchestra's programming, with each season's winning composer serving as composers-in-residence during the festival, coaching students in the presentation and interpretation of their works.

As indicated in ECU's mission statement, "Through its diverse curricula at the graduate and undergraduate levels, resulting music presentations, and the various artistic endeavors of the students and faculty, the School is committed to serving and furthering music in the cultural life of the University, community, and society at large."

NC NEWMUSIC INITIATIVE: BRINGING TODAY'S MUSIC TO OUR COMMUNITY.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NC NEWMUSIC INITIATIVE

- Seventeen festivals since 2001
- Funding support from:
 - Southern Arts Federation in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Arts and Meet-the-Composers, Inc.
 - Aaron Copland Fund for New Music
 - Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University
 - North Carolina Arts Council
 - Pennsylvania State Council on the Arts
 - James J. and Mamie Richardson Perkins Trust
 - ECU School of Music Special Events Committee
 - ECU Student Government Association
 - Local corporations (Hilton Greenville, City Hotel & Bistro, Eye Integrated, Topsy Teapot, Jarrell Design Collective, Emerge Gallery, Panera, Starlight Café, Scullery, others)
 - Nearly 100 individual donors
- Presentation of more than 600 compositions that have never been heard in this region
- International Composition Competition bringing the name East Carolina University to hundreds of composers from every continent
- 166 world premiere performances
- 40 New works written expressly for premiere at NEWMUSIC INITIATIVE concerts
- An average of 100-150 audience members attending more than eighty concert/recitals

SEVENTEEN YEARS OF GUEST ARTIST-SOLOISTS

- Audrey Andrist, piano (Washington, D.C.)
- Tony Arnold, soprano (NYC)
- Jonathan Bagg, viola (Durham, NC)
- Nathaniel Bartlett, marimba (Madison, WI)
- Steven Beck, piano (NYC)
- J. Manuel Berard, conductor (Wash., DC)
- Donald Berman, piano (Boston)
- Xak Bjerken, piano (Ithaca, NY)
- Amy Briggs (Dissanayake), piano (Chicago)
- Geoffrey Burleson, piano (NYC)
- Melvin Chen, piano (New Haven, CT)
- Abbie Conant, trombone (Hamburg, Ger.)
- Miranda Cuckson, violin (NYC)
- Julia Den Boer, piano (NYC)
- Jacob Greenberg, piano (NYC)
- Christopher Grymes, clarinet (NYC)
- Sharon Harms, soprano (NYC)
- Sharon Harms, soprano (NYC)
- Peter Henderson, piano (St. Louis)
- Tom Kolor, percussion (Buffalo, NY)
- Michael Lowenstern, bass clarinet (NYC)
- Blair McMillen, piano (NYC)
- Midori Goto, violin (San Diego, CA)
- Susan Narucki, soprano (San Diego, NYC)
- Jon Nelson, trumpet (Buffalo, NY)
- Marilyn Nonken, piano (NYC)
- Christopher Oldfather, piano (NYC)
- Ursula Oppens, piano (NYC, Chicago)
- Dafnis Prieto, percussion (NYC)
- John Sampen, saxophone (Bowling Green, OH)
- Christine Schadeberg, mezzo-sop. (Wash., DC)
- Gary Smart, piano (Univ. of Central Florida)
- Nathan Williams, clarinet (Univ. Texas, Austin)

SEVENTEEN YEARS OF WORLD-CLASS ENSEMBLES

- Bugallo-Williams Piano Duo (NY)
- Concertante (NYC)
- Daedalus Quartet (NYC)
- Dorian Wind Quintet (NYC)
- Flux Quartet (NYC)
- Genkin Philharmonic (Buffalo, NY)
- Imani Winds (NYC)
- JACK Quartet (NYC)
- Loadbang (NYC)
- Members of New Millennium Ens. (NYC)
- Meridian Arts Ensemble (NYC)
- Prism Saxophone Quartet (NYC, Phil.)
- Roomful of Teeth (NYC)
- pulsoptional (Durham, NC)
- Speculum Musicae (NYC)
- Talea Ensemble (NYC)
- Talujon Percussion (NYC)
- Triple Helix piano trio (Boston)
- Verdehr Trio (MI)
- Yarn/Wire (NYC)

SEVENTEEN YEARS OF GUEST COMPOSERS-IN-RESIDENCE

- Travis Alford, Brandeis University
- Allen Anderson, Univ. of North Carolina
- T.J. Anderson, Chapel Hill, NC
- Ross Bauer, Univ. of California, Davis
- Lembit Beecher, MI
- Benjamin Broening, Univ. Richmond, VA
- Aaron Brooks, Pittsburgh, PA
- Mario Davidovsky, Harvard Univ.
- Stephen Dembski, Univ. Wisc., Madison
- Nick Didkovsky, New York Univ.
- Christopher Dietz, MI
- Jason Eckardt, Brooklyn College
- Michael Foumai, University of Michigan
- Jeremy Gill, Boston, MA
- David Glaser, Yeshiva Univ. (NYC)
- Joel Hoffman, Cincinnati Conservatory
- Martha Horst, Illinois State Univ.
- Anthony Iannaccone, E. Michigan Univ.
- Stephen Jaffe, Duke Univ.
- Michael Lowenstern, NYC
- Salvatore Macchia, Univ. Mass., Amherst
- Thomas Masella, Pittsburgh, PA
- James Mobberley, Kansas City, MO
- Sam Nichols, Univ. of California, Davis
- Nick Omiccioli, Kansas City, MO
- William Osborne, Hamburg, Germany
- David Rakowski, Brandeis University
- Andrew Rindfleisch, Cleveland State Un.
- Michael Rothkopf, NC School of the Arts
- Jessica Rudman, Connecticut State Univ.
- Elena Ruehr, Mass. Inst. of Technology
- Laurie San Martin, Univ. Cal., Davis
- David Sanford, Hampshire College, MA
- Caroline Shaw, NYC
- Paul Siskind, SUNY Potsdam, NY
- Gary Smart, Univ. of Central Florida
- David Smooke, Northwestern Univ.
- Ingrid Stolzel, Kansas City, MO
- Augusta Read Thomas, Univ. of Chicago
- Roydon Tse, Toronto, Ont., CA
- Andrew Waggoner, Syracuse Univ.
- Rodney Waschka, NC State Univ.
- Beth Wiemann, Univ. of Maine
- Julius Williams, Berklee Coll. of Music
- Chen Yao, Chicago, IL

SEVENTEEN YEARS OF ECU PERFORMING ARTISTS

- Colin Andrews, organ
- Jeff Bair, saxophone
- Daniel Bara, conductor
- George Broussard, trombone
- J. Christopher Buddo, bass
- Mary Burroughs, horn
- Jacob Cameron, tuba
- Scott Carter, conductor
- Meghan Dewald, soprano
- Alisa Gilliam, piano
- Catherine Garner, piano
- Ara Gregorian, violin
- Christine Gustafson, flute
- Emanuel Gruber, cello
- Christopher Grymes, clarinet
- Jeff Jarvis, tuba
- Hye-Jin Kim, violin
- Christopher Knighten, conductor
- John Kramar, baritone
- Ron Lafond, tenor
- Nikki McCaslin, trombone
- Tom McCaslin, tuba
- Kelley Mikkelsen, cello
- Douglas Monroe, clarinet
- Kathryn Mueller, soprano
- Sharon Munden, mezzo-soprano
- Chris Nappi, percussion
- Bo Newsome, oboe
- John O'Brien, piano
- Melissa Reardon, viola
- Jami Rhodes, mezzo-soprano
- Jorge Richter, conductor
- Keiko Sekino, piano
- Perry Smith, tenor
- Eric Stellrecht, piano
- Louise Toppin, soprano
- Britton Theurer, trumpet
- J. Chris Ulffers, bassoon
- Jonathan Wacker, percussion
- Nathan Williams, clarinet

AND ECU RESIDENT COMPOSERS

Mark Taggart, Mark Richardson, marc faris, Britton Theurer (Emeritus), and Edward Jacobs.