



MUSIC COMPOSITION ACADEMY APPRENTICE

The SDSO seeks a composer/teaching artist to join the Music Composition Academies as Composer-Apprentice. This opportunity affords one to two weeks (based on availability) during the summer of 2024 of hands-on training and participation in this acclaimed program for youth-centered creativity. With a successful summer of work and learning, the Composer-Apprentice will demonstrate understanding of and commitment to the principles and practices of the MCA, and become a candidate to join the faculty of composer-mentors in future years.

The apprentice reports to the lead composer-mentor and works closely with the other two composer-mentors, and the SDSO staff.

About the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra

The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (SDSO), based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is the state's premier performing arts organization with the Washington Pavilion as its home. The SDSO curates a diverse collection of orchestral offerings each season through classical and pops concerts, as well as chamber music, appealing to audiences from the very experienced to first-timers. To reach as many people as possible, orchestra concerts are livestreamed free of charge, and a robust digital library includes virtual recitals, music education videos, and podcasts. Music Director Delta David Gier leads the artistic vision of the SDSO, a collaboration that has garnered national recognition.

The SDSO is nationally recognized as a prime example for how an orchestra engages with its community. The 83-member orchestra includes nine full-time musicians who make up the Dakota String Quartet and the Dakota Wind Quintet. These two ensembles perform over 100 times annually in schools, hospitals, senior living communities, behavioral health, and community centers throughout the region.

The SDSO presents a variety of education and engagement programs including the South Dakota Symphony Youth Orchestra, Young People's Concerts, the Music Composition Academies, and music enrichment opportunities in the classroom and for children with special needs.

The SDSO's award-winning Lakota Music Project is a model of cultural understanding and is the flagship community engagement program of the SDSO. With the Lakota Music Project as a foundation, the SDSO has fostered additional programs to embrace classical music as a medium for shared understanding. The SDSO strives to embody the values of equity, belonging, diversity, and inclusion, and to empower its many constituents to contribute to and foster its growth.

About the Music Composition Academies

The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra's Music Composition Academies are two, week-long tuition-free summer composition camps serving middle and high school students from tribal communities in western and eastern

South Dakota. This an experience in which students work with a team of professional composer mentors to write their own music during a week-long summer camp in June or July. In September, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (SDSO) musicians travel to the students' communities and perform the student compositions at their schools for their peers.

It was the success of the Lakota Music Project which led to the development of the Music Composition Academies (MCA). The MCA were founded by composer-in-residence Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate in 2017 and flourished under the leadership of composer Theodore Wiprud who succeeded Tate in 2018.

South Dakota Symphony Orchestra's community engagement work is intentional about building multicultural bridges through music, and we encourage people from all backgrounds to be a part of the work we do. Many of the Music Composition Academies students are from tribal communities in South Dakota. Recent students are from the Lake Traverse, Pine Ridge, and Rosebud reservations as well as Sisseton and Rapid City.

MUSIC COMPOSITION ACADEMY APPRENTICE

Qualifications:

- Expertise and recognition as a composer in any medium
- Experience composing and scoring for orchestral string and wind instruments
- Facility with digital music notation systems like Finale or Sibelius
- Experience in education/teaching artistry, ideally with adolescents
- Demonstrated openness to all forms of creative expression

Scope of Work:

- Participate in half-day on-boarding at the beginning of a MCA residency week
- Participate in MCA group workshops
- Shadow composer-mentors in individual work
- Debrief and discuss the work with composer-mentors
- As appropriate and as assigned, work with individual students on their compositions
- As appropriate and as assigned, assist with digital music copying and parts extraction
- Other duties as assigned during each week of MCA

Compensation

The MCA apprentice is an independent contractor. The apprentice may work for one or both MCA weeks (June 16-21 in Sisseton and/or July 7-12, 2024 in Spearfish). The fee for this project-based role is \$500 for each MCA week for a potential total of \$1,000 for both weeks. Lodging, meals/stipend, and transportation is provided.

Application procedure:

Please submit a resume and thoughtful cover letter in word or pdf file format to Theodore Wiprud, Lead Composer-Mentor at twiprud@gmail.com. This opportunity is open until filled.