

PRESS RELEASE
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Philadelphia Music Project Awards Announced

The Philadelphia Music Project, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and administered by Settlement Music School, has awarded a total of \$766,500 over two years (2000-2002) to eleven professional nonprofit music organizations in Greater Philadelphia. A panel of seven nationally recognized music experts recently convened to consider thirty-three applications from the five-county region. Funding requests totaled nearly \$1.8 million for project support. Grants are awarded for projects which provide an organization with the means to elevate its artistic level through an expanded concert season, a recording project, the presentation of contemporary, large-scale or rarely-performed works, and composer commissions. Funded proposals will yield eighteen newly commissioned works, all of which will be premiered in the area.

PHILADELPHIA MUSIC PROJECT 2000 AWARDS

Academy of Vocal Arts, \$105,000 over two years to fund an expansion of the AVA Opera Theatre season which will include a concert of contemporary chamber works and a contemporary American opera.

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, \$80,000 to fund an expansion of the jazz and classical music program to twenty-one performances. Guest Artists include Charlie Hunter, Dee Dee Bridgwater, Wayne Shorter with Herbie Hancock, Sonny Rollins, George Winston, the Mingus Big Band, Philharmonia of the Nations with Pinchas Zukerman, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, BBC Orchestra of Scotland, and Curtis Institute students.

Mendelssohn Club, \$57,500 over two years to fund the production and performance of two rarely performed works in Philadelphia's Academy of Music: *Belshazzar's Feast* by Sir William Walton and *Passion According to St. Luke* by Krzysztof Penderecki. Guest Artists will include the Concerto Soloists Orchestra.

Network for New Music, \$60,000 over two years to fund the commissioning and performance of works by several established composers, including Eric Moe, Jan Kzyzwicki, Richard Wernick, and David Rakowski. The Colorado String Quartet with baritone Randall Scarlatta will be among Network for New Music's guest artists.

Opera Company of Philadelphia, \$80,000 to fund artistic expansion of its season with a fifth full production, *Porgy and Bess*, presented in Philadelphia for the first time in 25 years.

Orchestra 2001, \$60,000 over two years to commission, present and record four major new works in celebration of the ensemble's name year "2001" and the beginning of the new millennium. Commissioned composers are Thea Musgrave, David Finko, George Rochberg, and Jonathan Holland.

Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, \$40,000 to fund an expanded International Vocal Music Series. Guest artists include Anonymous 4, Stephanie Blythe, the Curtis Opera Department, Wolfgang Holzmair, Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers, Joan Morris and Bill Bolcolm, Heidi Grant Murphy, Philadelphia Singers, Christoph Pregardien, and Mitsuko Shirai.

Philadelphia Orchestra, \$160,000 over two years to fund five commissions and presentations celebrating the Orchestra's centennial. Commissioned composers are Richard Danielpour, Roberto Sierra, Michael Daugherty, Aaron Jay Kernis, and Jennifer Higdon.

Philomel, \$34,000 over two years to fund an increased resident artistic staff and expanded concert season, including guest artists Julianne Baird, Stanley Ritchie, Gonzalo Ruiz, Jaap Schroeder, Elliot Fisk, John Thiessen, Elizabeth Blumenstock, and Lisa Weiss.

Piffaro, The Renaissance Band, \$60,000 over two years to fund an expanded concert season including guest artists Laura Heimes, Christa Patton, King's Noyse, Patrick O'Brien, Mark Jaster, and Concerto Palatino. Program pieces include Music from the Odhecaton.

Relache, \$30,000 to fund the 21st Century Composers Series which will commission, prepare and perform five new works by contemporary composers Amy Denio, Kyle Gann, Eric Moe, Leslie Burrs, and Joseph Koyykar.

The Pew Charitable Trusts support nonprofit activities in the areas of culture, education, the environment, health and human services, public policy and religion. Based in Philadelphia, the Trusts make strategic investments to help organizations and citizens develop practical solutions to difficult problems. In 1999, with approximately \$4.9 billion in assets, the Trusts committed over \$250 million to 206 nonprofit organizations.

Founded in 1908, Settlement Music School is the largest community arts school in the country.

With locations in Germantown, Jenkintown, Northeast, South, Southwest and West Philadelphia, the school provides more than 9,000 students with quality music, voice and dance instruction regardless of their age, background, or ability to pay.

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