

## **New Jersey Symphony Orchestra accepting applications for 2017 NJSO Edward T. Cone Composition Institute**

**Six-day program will give participating composers  
musical- and career-development experience**

**Institute includes sessions with Institute Director Steven Mackey,  
conductor JoAnn Falletta, NJSO musicians and industry leaders**

**NJSO to give professional world premieres of participant works**

*Presented in collaboration with the Princeton University Department of Music,  
funded in part by Edward T. Cone Foundation and Princeton University*

**July 10–15 at Princeton University**

**Application deadline is Feb 1**

NEWARK, NJ (November 21, 2016)—The application process is now open for the 2017 NJSO Edward T. Cone Composition Institute, a multifaceted program that promotes new music and emerging composers. The Institute will select four composers to participate in intense compositional evaluations, consultations, rehearsals and career-enrichment sessions July 10–15 on the Princeton University campus. The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra will give the professional world premieres of the participants' works at a public concert on Saturday, July 15, at 8 pm at the Richardson Auditorium in Princeton. By the conclusion of the Institute's immersive laboratory experience, participants will have gained invaluable musical and practical feedback about writing for orchestra and how to get their music published and performed.

At the Institute, composers will hear their works in rehearsal and performance and will participate in masterclasses with Institute Director and lauded composer Steven Mackey; they will receive feedback from NJSO musicians and guest conductor JoAnn Falletta, who returns to the Institute after conducting and mentoring composers at the 2015 session. The Institute will also provide career-development opportunities with industry leaders.

Emerging composers—university composition students or composers in the early stages of their professional careers—must submit completed applications by February 1. Four composers will be identified to participate in the Institute by March 15. Application forms and details are available at [www.njsymphony.org/institute](http://www.njsymphony.org/institute).

Music Director Xian Zhang says: "I'm so thrilled that my colleague JoAnn Falletta will lead this year's Cone Institute along with Steven Mackey. The NJSO has a proud commitment to the music of today, and this is an important part of our identity."

*The Times of Trenton* praises the multidimensional experience the Institute provides for participants: "For four composers at the beginning of their careers, the institute is an invaluable experience – six days of intensive evaluations and consultations, culminating in a live performance of their music by a major symphony orchestra under a world-class conductor ... What is especially valuable about the institute is that the lessons learned will extend far beyond advice on simple technique, delving into the actual business side of what it means to be a composer, including information on rehearsal protocol, publishing and promotion."

Sessions will include small group gatherings with Institute faculty and NJSO musicians to discuss applications and variations on the possible versus the practical in composition; one-on-one and group coaching sessions with Mackey; seminars with industry leaders to broaden awareness of current practices in publishing, licensing, promotion and music preparation; in-studio interviews with WQXR's Q2 Music and the opportunity to strengthen personal presentation and networking skills.

Mackey says a key element of the Institute is giving composers the opportunity to refine their orchestral scores in real time “so that what they do can really shine. That’s a recurring theme of the Cone Institute—it’s about polishing, heightening and highlighting the things that are important and really make the orchestra come alive.”

NJSO clarinetist Andrew Lamy says the Orchestra relishes the opportunity to work with “some of the crème de la crème talents of the next generation. Investing time and energy into that is very important [to the NJSO musicians]. There’s no substitute for having your music really heard and performed in three dimensions. For the composers, getting tips for how to place their music in front of an orchestra so it’s as easily executed as possible helps them get the effect or musical statements that they want. You can’t do that with a MIDI machine; you can’t do that in a classroom.”

The Institute is tuition-free; housing on the campus of Princeton University and on-campus meals will be provided, if needed.

The NJSO Edward T. Cone Composition Institute grew out of reading sessions the Orchestra has held with Princeton University graduate students biennially for more than a decade. The Institute celebrates its namesake Cone’s legacy as both a composer and a Princeton University professor.

WQXR’s Q2 Music has partnered with the NJSO to broadcast the first three Institute concerts. The concerts are available to stream at [www.njsymphony.org/about-njso/newsroom/in-the-news/listen-2016-cone-composition-institute-concert-on-q2-music](http://www.njsymphony.org/about-njso/newsroom/in-the-news/listen-2016-cone-composition-institute-concert-on-q2-music).

A collaboration between the NJSO and Princeton University Department of Music, the Institute is generously funded in part by the Edward T. Cone Foundation and Princeton University.

### **ELIGIBILITY/SELECTION PROCESS**

Applications will be accepted from emerging composers who must be either a U.S. citizen or non-citizen lawfully residing in the United States. Applicants must currently be university composition students or in the early stages of their professional careers. Applicants must be at least 18 years old on or before July 1, 2017.

Participating composers will be selected through competitive application by a panel administered by the NJSO. The criteria for participation will be the panel’s assessment of the composer’s invention and creativity in the orchestral medium, as well as a demonstrated understanding of the technical/practical requirements of the medium. Final decisions will be made by Steven Mackey and JoAnn Falletta.

Composers who have participated in previous Institutes may not reapply. Previous applicants may resubmit works previously entered or reapply with a different work.

Complete applications with all required supporting materials must be received by February 1, 2017. Applicants will be notified of their status by March 15, 2017.

A full list of application requirements, deadlines and other information, including a link to the application form, are available at [www.njsymphony.org/institute](http://www.njsymphony.org/institute).

For more information, contact Alexandra Black, NJSO Artistic Operations Coordinator, at [ablack@njsymphony.org](mailto:ablack@njsymphony.org) or 973.735.1740.

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### **INSTITUTE PERSONNEL**

#### **Steven Mackey, Institute Director and William Shubael Conant Professor of Music at Princeton University**

Steven Mackey was born in 1956 to American parents stationed in Frankfurt, Germany. He is regarded as one of the leading composers of his generation and has composed for orchestra, chamber ensemble, dance and opera. His first musical passion was playing the electric guitar in rock bands based in northern California. He blazed a trail in the 1980s and 90s by including the electric guitar and vernacular music influence in his concert music, and he regularly performs his own works, including two electric guitar concertos and numerous solo and chamber works. He is also active as an improvising musician and performs with his band Big Farm.

Mackey's music has been performed by leading musical institutions throughout the world, including the Los Angeles, BBC and New York philharmonics; San Francisco and Chicago symphonies; Philadelphia and Concertgebouw orchestras and Brentano, Kronos and Arditti string quartets, among others. He has received numerous awards, including a Grammy Award in 2012 for his album *Lonely Motel: Music from Slide*.

#### **JoAnn Falletta, conductor**

JoAnn Falletta is internationally celebrated as a vibrant ambassador for music, an inspiring artistic leader and a champion of American symphonic music. She serves as the music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

Falletta has guest conducted more than 100 orchestras in North America, as well as many of the most prominent orchestras in Europe, Asia, South America and Africa. Her 2016–17 international guest conducting appearances include performances in Spain and Finland, as well as recordings with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra and London Symphony.

In 2016, Falletta was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, joining an esteemed roster that dates back to the Academy's founding in 1780. She has served as a member of the National Council on the Arts and is the recipient of many of the most prestigious conducting awards.

Falletta is a leading recording artist for Naxos. Her discs have won two Grammy Awards and 10 Grammy nominations. Recent recordings include three recordings with the Virginia Arts Festival of Stravinsky and Mahler, a disc of the cello concertos of Victor Herbert with soloist Mark Kosower and the Ulster Orchestra and works of Florent Schmitt, Novak, Scriabin and Wagner with the Buffalo Philharmonic. For more information, visit [www.joannfalletta.com](http://www.joannfalletta.com).

### **NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Named “a vital, artistically significant musical organization” by *The Wall Street Journal*, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra embodies that vitality through its statewide presence and critically acclaimed performances, education partnerships and unparalleled access to music and the Orchestra's superb musicians.

The NJSO welcomes new Music Director Xian Zhang in the 2016–17 season. The Orchestra presents classical, pops and family programs, as well as outdoor summer concerts and special events. Embracing its legacy as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO is the resident orchestra of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and regularly performs at the State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick, Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown and bergenPAC in Englewood. Partnerships with New Jersey arts organizations, universities and civic organizations remain a key element of the Orchestra's statewide identity.

In addition to its lauded artistic programming, the NJSO presents a suite of education and community engagement (ECE) programs that promote meaningful, lifelong engagement with live music. Programs include school-time Concerts for Young People performances, NJSO Youth Orchestras family of student ensembles and El Sistema-inspired NJSO CHAMPS

(Character, Achievement and Music Project). The NJSO's REACH (Resources for Education and Community Harmony) chamber music program annually brings original programs—designed and performed by NJSO musicians—to a variety of settings. In the 2015–16 season, REACH ensembles performed at nearly 200 events, and ECE programs served more than 66,000 New Jerseyans in nearly 21 counties.

For more information about the NJSO, visit [www.njsymphony.org](http://www.njsymphony.org) or email [information@njsymphony.org](mailto:information@njsymphony.org). Tickets are available for purchase by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or on the Orchestra's website.

*The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's programs are made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, along with many other foundations, corporations and individual donors.*

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