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COMPOSERS NOW RESIDENCY PROGRAMS SET TO EXPAND IN 2015-16

The Creative Residency Program goes international, partnering with the Civitella Ranieri Foundation.



CIVITELLA RANIERI

New York, NY - [Composers Now](#) is pleased to announce the expansion of its **Composers Now Creative Residencies** initiative with a new partnership with the [Civitella Ranieri Foundation](#), in the Umbria region of Italy. Two composers, each selected by Composers Now, will receive a Civitella Ranieri Fellowship consisting of a six-week residency at the center in addition to travel, room and board. Residencies will take place in 2016 and 2017.

“Civitella Ranieri has a long tradition of Affiliated Fellowships, but this is our first exclusively dedicated to music and composition,” said Civitella’s Executive Director, Dana Prescott. “We look forward to the candidates Composers Now will identify, and to welcoming them to Civitella in the coming years.”

Located in a fifteenth century castle in the Umbria region of Italy, **Civitella Ranieri Center** is a workplace for international composers, writers, and visual artists. Since 1995, Civitella has hosted more than six hundred Fellows and Director’s Guests. In keeping with the spirit of its founder, Ursula Corning, and the tradition of hospitality and support for the arts that she established at the castle, the center enables its Fellows to pursue their work and to exchange ideas in a unique and inspiring setting. Resident composers have included **Pauline Oliveros, Martin Bresnick, Everett Bradley, Chen Yi, and Gabriela Ortiz.**

The **Creative Residencies** initiative launched in November 2014 with great success in New York, as a collaborative program between Composers Now and the Pocantico Center when **Mari Kimura and Arúan Ortiz** were the awarded composers. Residencies provide composers with their most valuable resource: time. The combination of time, space, and an inspiring setting make these residencies invaluable. Composers Now Creative Residencies are awarded through a careful nomination process, open to organizations that have participated in the annual festival, and a jury process by a rotating panel of our distinguished advisors and mentors.

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Composers Now celebrates living composers, the diversity of their voices, and the significance of their contributions to our society. Composers Now is a project partner of **The Fund for the City of New York**. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the **ASCAP Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, BMI Foundation, Cheswatyr Foundation** and the **Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation**.

Composers Now will be accepting event registrations for the NYC-wide February 2016 festival in September.



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THE POCANTICO CENTER

The Pocantico Center hosts artist residencies and provides performance space for artists selected by **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** grantees and New York City arts organizations. Located 20 miles north of Manhattan in the Pocantico Historic Area, The Pocantico Center is managed by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund as part of its agreement with the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**.

Composers **Jin Hi Kim** and **Peter Van Zandt Lane** will be in residence at the Pocantico Center in November 2015. During the residency, Ms. Kim will collaborate with Chinese librettist **Ji Chao** of the **Asian Cultural Council** while Peter Van Zandt Lane will collaborate with New York-based choreographer **Kate Ladenheim**. Composers were nominated by partner organizations that have participated in the Composers Now Festival. Each composer will reside at the Pocantico Center for one week and may offer a presentation to an invited audience while there.

“The experience was not only inspirational, but also ... an emotional one. I am a daughter of an architect whose hero was Marcel Breuer. Since the early age I was exposed to the American contemporary architecture and interior design. Waves of flashbacks from my early childhood came back while living in Breuer House.... The house itself suddenly hit me with overwhelming emotion and appreciation for the style of living.

“Therefore, with the gratitude, inspiration and admiration, I composed, programmed (it’s for interactive computer and violin using IRCAM’s motion sensor), practiced and then recorded my new work in three movements, entitled: Breuer, Vivant (Breuer, living).” - MARI KIMURA, 2014 RESIDENT

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TANIA LEÓN / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Tania León is a highly regarded composer and conductor recognized for her accomplishments as an educator and advisor to arts organizations. She has been the subject of profiles on ABC, CBS, CNN, PBS, Univision, Telemundo and independent films. Recent commissions include: the score for the opera, *The Little Rock Nine*, with a libretto by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., commissioned by the University of Central Arkansas’s College of Fine Arts and Communications, with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation and the Fred Darragh Foundation; *Acana* for orchestra; and *Inura* for voices, strings and percussion.

Appearances as guest conductor include those with the Symphony Orchestra of Marseille, France the Gewandhausorchester Orchestra, Germany and Orquesta Sinfonica de Guanajuato, Mexico among others. Tania León’s honors include the New York Governor’s Lifetime Achievement Award, the ASCAP Victor Herbert Award and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. A founding member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, she instituted the Brooklyn Philharmonic Community Concert Series, was co-founder of the American Composers Orchestra “Sonidos de las Americas Festivals” and New Music Advisor to the New York Philharmonic. She has lectured at Harvard University, served as visiting professor at Yale University and as guest composer/conductor at the Hamburg Musikschule, Germany, the Beijing Central Conservatory, China and the Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, South Africa.

León has received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Colgate University, Oberlin and SUNY Purchase Colleges. She served as US Artistic Ambassador of American Culture in Madrid, Spain. A Professor at Brooklyn College since 1985, she was named Distinguished Professor of the City University of New York in 2006. In 2010 Ms. León was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

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AMY ROBERTS FRAWLEY / PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Amy Roberts Frawley is the performing arts curator at Wave Hill in addition to her role as program director of Composers Now and for the upcoming New York run of Shirish Korde's multi-media chamber opera, *Phoolan Devi - The Bandit Queen*. She produced the *Keyed Up Music Project* for pianist Marc Peloquin. Her prior organizational experience includes thirteen years as executive vice president of Concert Artists Guild and positions at John Gingrich Management, Speculum Musicae, Chamber Music International and Young Concert Artists. An active volunteer, Ms. Frawley is a former president and current member of the board of directors of the Look & Listen Festival.

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