



Opus 35



March 24th, 2020

Opus 35

We are very excited to announce that our 35th Opus concert will be held in Burlington at the Elley Long Music Center on March 24th! Young composers are paired with professional composers as they create an original piece of music, which is then premiered by the best musicians in Vermont to hundreds of friends, family and community members.

This can be a truly life changing experience for young people, and each Opus concert reminds us the creativity held by the next generation of musicians. It's an amazing opportunity that you don't want your children or students to miss!

Instrumentation (any combination)

Brass Quintet (2 Trumpets, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba)

Voice (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass)

Percussion (2 players, one of which can be a drum set)

Piano

Saxophone

First Posting: Rolling Submission from November 10th through December 10th. First postings can be as short as 4 measures and a statement of intent.

Opus 35 Concert: March 24th at Elley Long Music Center. Free concert with workshops and open rehearsals.

Submission Details:

- There is no prior composition experience necessary! Each and every student in grades 3-12 who submits for Opus 35 will be paired with a professional composer as their mentor while they create a new work.
- Works can be written for any combination of the available instrumentation.
- All works for Opus 35 must be submitted for online mentoring and undergo at least two revisions throughout the writing process.
- First drafts may be as short as 4 measures! Much of the work will happen over the course of a few months as the young composers work with their mentor.
- Selected works will be performed by the best musicians in Vermont, and young composers will be able to work directly with the performers to make their music come to life!

If you are new to Music-COMP and Opus, please feel free to reach out directly with questions you may have and to see how your children or students can participate.

Questions? Contact Director Matt LaRocca at matt@music-comp.org

www.music-comp.org

FAQ:

How does it work?

We pair each Music-COMP student with a professional composer to be their mentor as they create a new work. Some of our composer mentors live in Vermont, others are all across the country. Our mentors are professors, freelance composers, teachers, performers and more. All the interaction happens on our secure mentoring site, and the mentor works with each young composer to guide them in writing original music.

Let's take a look at a real example from a few years back: A student from the Northeast Kingdom is composing their first piece of music, and they are paired with a composer living in New York City as their mentor. The first draft the student posts is only 8 measures long, and over the course of a few months they work together to create a 3 minute long song. The student would work on their music and post a comment to the mentoring site when they had made some progress and were ready to share with their mentor. The mentor then listened to what they wrote and made suggestions to help guide the student in the composition process. This back and forth went on for a few months, or until the piece was finished.

We try to play as many of the new compositions as we can, and for each Opus concert we will premiere 20-30 new works with professional musicians. Opus concerts are free and open to the public, and include rehearsals and workshops during the day prior to the concert. This student's song was selected for performance at Opus, and during the day they rehearsed their music with a string quartet whose members all perform with the Vermont Symphony. Later that evening, the new piece of music had it's world premiere to a packed concert hall full of friends, family, and community members.

Is this just for exceptionally talented young musicians?

Absolutely not! Our goal is to allow music students of all abilities to realize their creativity in music. There really is no prior composition experience necessary to participate. A musical foundation helps, but is not required. One of our core beliefs is that every young person has a musical voice - and we want to give them the opportunity for it to be heard.

How much does it cost?

Through Music-COMP, each student will get between 4-6 hours of one-on-one mentoring from a professional composer. Independent students are charged \$40 for elementary/middle school compositions and \$70 for high school compositions. Member schools pay \$20 and \$30 respectively for each composition. If a piece is selected for Opus, there is a \$65 performance fee that helps us cover the cost of audio recordings, video recordings, hall rental and payment for the musicians. **There are scholarships available for those students and families in need of financial assistance. If cost is a factor, please reach out to Matt LaRocca.**

Do I need to purchase any music software?

No! You can use free music notation software! There are two fantastic options: Noteflight (which is cloud based and can be accessed from anywhere with nothing to download) and Muse Score (which is a downloadable program). Noteflight is preferable, as it makes the interactions between mentors and students much easier. To share a note flight score, all you have to do is copy and paste the url of your music, send the link to someone, and it can be opened anywhere. Additionally, students can work on Noteflight scores from any computer.

Are there other opportunities besides Opus concerts?

Yes! Our mentors work with young composers year round on a number of different types of projects. Right now we have students working on pieces for the Vermont Symphony, student-designed projects of all types including a composition for their school's orchestra, and silent film scores.

Do you work with other organizations?

Yes! We partner with a number of different organizations to provide opportunities for students. Every year our young composers have their music performed by the Vermont Symphony, the Vermont Philharmonic, the Northern Third Piano Quartet, and more. They are also regularly featured on VPR with Kari Anderson and our Student Composer Showcase.

What do we hope for our young composers?

- To realize their creative abilities in music and experience the creative process while working directly with a mentor
- To be empowered to create something that is entirely their own
- To have a safe place to express themselves through music
- To be given an opportunity to connect and engage with professional musicians
- Growth - both musical and personal
- A life changing moment they will always remember

Ready to get started? Contact Executive Director Matt LaRocca at matt@music-comp.org for registration information and details on how to post music to our secure mentoring site.



Participating Vermont Schools and Teachers

Albany Community School - Anna Kennedy, Albany VT
Barnet School - Sue Persson, Barnet VT
Bethel Schools - Shannon Bonsignore and Carrie Kohl, Bethel VT
Brattleboro Union HS - Steve Rice and Patty Meyer, Brattleboro VT
Brownington Central School - Anna Kennedy, Brownington VT
Burlington High School - Clayton Hamilton, Billy Ray Poli, and Molly Dubois, Burlington VT
Champlain Elementary School - Betsy Greene, Burlington VT
Colchester High School - Evan Peltier, Colchester VT
Colchester Central School - Bridgette Tozzi and Emily Desautels, Colchester VT
Edmunds Elementary School - Betsy Nolan, Burlington VT
Edmunds Middle School - Graham Lambert, Michael Hakim, Burlington VT
Essex High School - Heather Finlayson, Essex Junction VT
J.J. Flynn Elementary School - Emily Willette, Burlington VT
Franklin Central School - Jennifer McConnell, Franklin VT
George Mason High School - Mary West, Falls Church Virginia
Glover Community School - Anna Kennedy, Glover VT
Hartford High School - Danielle Connerty, White River Junction VT
Harwood Union School - Chris Rivers and Stefanie Weigand, Duxbury VT
Hazen Union School - Mason Mills, Hardwick VT
Hinesburg Community School - Cindy Fay, Hinesburg VT
Integrated Arts Academy - Bill Myregaard, Burlington VT
Lake Region UHS - Sara Doncaster, Orleans VT
Lamoille UHS - Jennifer Connelly and Nick Allen, Hyde Park VT
Main Street School - Hilary Goldblatt, Montpelier VT
Marian High School - Colleen Pingel, South Bend, IN
Montpelier High School - Hilary Goldblatt, Montpelier VT
Mount Mansfield UHS - Caleb Pillsbury, Jericho VT
North Country UHS - Bill Prue, Newport VT
Prosper Valley School - Christina Morton, Pomfret VT
Putney Central School - Dan Seiden, Putney VT
Randolph UHS - Ray Cole, Randolph VT
South Burlington HS - Karola Troidl, South Burlington VT
South Royalton School - Anita Duffy, South Royalton VT
Shelburne Community School - Tim Buckingham, Christina Kelsh, Amy Southworth, Dianna Burritt, Shelburne VT
Springfield High School - Jim Chlebak, Springfield VT
C. P. Smith Elementary School - Danielle Hurley, Burlington VT
The Grammar School - Alli Lubin, Putney VT
Tuttle Middle School - Karola Troidl and Gail Kilkelley, South Burlington VT
U-32 High School - Anne Decker, East Montpelier VT
Vergennes UHS - Sue O'Daniel, Vergennes VT