



SEPTEMBER 15, 2014 | CONTACT: STUART WOLFERMAN | STUART@UNFINISHEDSIDE.COM | 718-938-7679

## COMPOSERS NOW ANNOUNCES RESIDENCY INITIATIVE

*Partnership with The Pocantico Center launches in October*



New York, NY - **Composers Now** is proud to announce the **Composers Now Creative Residencies** -- a collaborative program between Composers Now and 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 **Mari Kimura** and **Aruán Ortiz** will be in residence at the Pocantico Center during the month of October 2014. Composers were nominated by partner organizations that have participated in the Composers Now Festival. Ms. Kimura was nominated by **Harvestworks** and Mr. Ortiz by **Harlem Stage**. Two additional composers - **Reena Esmail**, nominated by **Marc Peloquin/Keyed Up Music Project**, and **Gregor Huebner**, nominated by **Dance Theatre of Harlem** - were named alternates. Jury members for the process were Marilyn Nonken and Henry Threadgill.

Each composer will reside at the Pocantico Center for one week and may offer a presentation to an invited audience while there. Mari Kimura and Aruán Ortiz will also perform on the opening event of the February 2015 Composers Now Festival at **the cell**.

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**Composers Now Festival** celebrates living composers, the diversity of their voices, and the significance of their musical 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**, **BMI Foundation**, **Cheswaty Foundation** and the **Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation**.



*Composers Now is now accepting event registrations for the February 2015 festival.*

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## **MARI KIMURA**

Mari Kimura is widely admired as the inventor of “Subharmonics” and has appeared as a soloist with major orchestras including the Tokyo and Hamburg Symphonies. Her works for interactive computer and collaborations with IRCAM in Paris have won grants such as the Guggenheim Fellowship and Fromm Commission. In 2013, she inaugurated a new summer program as the Director of “Future Music Lab” at the Atlantic Music Festival and teaches Interactive Computer Music Performance at The Juilliard School.

## **ARUÁN ORTIZ**

Aruán Ortiz has been recognized in DownBeat Magazine as “one of the most versatile and exciting pianists of his generation.” Also known as a violist, he is admired for his ability to incorporate influences from classical music, Afro-Cuban rhythms and improvisation. He has written pieces for orchestras, dance companies, chamber groups and feature films. Currently recipient of the Doris Duke Impact Award 2014, Aruán has produced the Music & Architecture monthly concert series in New York City, featuring some of the most forward-thinking, creative improvisers on the jazz scene.

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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.

## **AMY FRAWLEY / PROJECT DIRECTOR**

Amy Roberts Frawley is the performing arts curator at Wave Hill in addition to her role as project director of Composers Now and for the upcoming New York run of Shirish Korde’s multi-media chamber opera, *Phoolan Devi - The Bandit Queen*, at the Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater in June of 2015. She created and produces 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 volunteerist, Ms. Frawley is a former president and current member of the board of directors of the Look & Listen Festival.

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## **COMPOSERS SPEAK**

“How exciting it is for me to see living composers celebrated everywhere and for my music to be featured! The Composers Now Festival and the Keyed Up Music Project come together in February 2014 and how right that they do. Both are about uniting composers, performers and the public for meaningful performances and conversations.” - *David Del Tredici*

“The Composers Now Festival is wonderful, not only because it offers composers the gift of visibility (always that elusive piece for almost all creative artists), but also because it creates a de facto community of composers that is about to set the air humming. How warming is that?! I feel fortunate that I on electronic keyboard will be part of a duo, with co-writer Danish singer Lotte Arnsbjerg. Let’s all go Viral!”  
- *Carman Moore*

“I’ve noticed there’s an almost insatiable hunger for fresh new sounds. Making them and the composers who create them accessible through cool festivals like Composers Now is invaluable to the community.”  
- *Angélica Negrón*

“Too little goes to the men and women (and sometimes children) who create from nothing more than their intellect and passion, the very sounds that make our lives so worthy and satisfying. Composers Now seeks to address this. Long live Composers Now!!” - *Arturo O’Farrill*

“As composers, we are living in a very interesting time in New York. I don’t recall a more fertile landscape for new music in terms of venues and opportunities for performance. What’s so fantastic about Composers Now is that they put it all together by showcasing composers being performed all over the City. It’s kind of brilliant.” - *Eleonor Sandresky*

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## **LINKS**

- [www.composersnow.org](http://www.composersnow.org)
- [www.twitter.com/ComposersNow](https://www.twitter.com/ComposersNow)
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