



american composers orchestra

Robert Beaser, *artistic director*
George Manahan, *music director*
Derek Bermel, *creative advisor*
Dennis Russell Davies, *conductor laureate*
Steven Sloane, *principal guest conductor*

240 West 35th Street, Suite 405
New York, NY 10001-2506

Phone: 212.977.8495 Fax: 212.977.8995
www.americancomposers.org

CoLABoratory: Playing it UNSafe

Call for Proposals

Receipt Deadline: April 16, 2012, 5:00 pm

American Composers Orchestra (ACO) announces **CoLABoratory: Playing it UNSafe**, a research and development laboratory for the creation, development, workshopping, and performance of experimental new music by American composers. The goal of the program is to encourage composers to experiment and stretch their own musical sensibilities by developing new works (or works-in-progress) that expand the range of possibilities for—and challenge convention notions about—orchestral music. The program will include an extended series of rehearsals and public workshop/readings over a six-month period during the 2012-13 season, culminating in performance in Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall on Friday, April 5, 2013, conducted by ACO music director **George Manahan**.

CoLABoratory: Playing it UNSafe was conceived to address the pressures and limitations often encountered by composers writing new works for orchestra, a situation that tends to inhibit risk-taking and encourages a “play it safe” approach. Rather than a brief rehearsal set, CoLABoratory allows composers to develop their work in an extended, collaborative environment—with ACO’s musicians, conductor, artistic staff, and colleague composers—designed to encourage and support experimentation and risk-taking. Feedback sessions allow composers to try new techniques and ideas, then to go back to revise and extend the piece further, for the next workshop session with the orchestra. ACO’s artistic staff members **Robert Beaser** and **Derek Bermel**, as well as **Morton Subotnick**, serve as mentor-composers. Five workshop/readings will take place from October 2012 - March 2013, in addition to a full rehearsal series leading up to the culminating performance in April 2013.

CoLABoratory: Playing it UNSafe features Orchestra Underground, ACO’s groundbreaking small orchestra ensemble that seeks to redefine orchestra music by embracing a wide gamut of musical styles, unusual instrumentations and spatial orientations of musicians, technological innovations, and multimedia/multidisciplinary collaborations. Since its launch in 2004, Orchestra Underground has commissioned and premiered 70 cutting-edge new works.

The core Orchestra Underground instrumentation for CoLABoratory: Playing it UNSafe is: single winds and brass instruments (standard orchestra doublings are permitted); harp, keyboard, 2 percussion plus timpani (3 players); and strings (6.5.4.3.2). Proposals that use alternative instruments, soloist, electronics, digital technology, video or multidisciplinary elements are encouraged. Smaller instrumentations are permissible; however, proposed works should reflect the orchestral nature of the ensemble with multiple strings on a part. Proposed works may be up to 15 minutes in duration (single movements or sections of a larger work-in-progress are acceptable).

Up to six composers will be selected for participation in CoLABoratory: Playing it UNSafe. Composers at any stage of their career may apply. Composers selected to participate will receive an honorarium of \$2,000 to support the creation of the work and to assist in covering the cost of the preparation of instrumental parts. In addition, travel and accommodation expenses will be provided as needed.

Composers may propose a musical work or project for CoLABoratory: Playing it UNSafe by submitting the following:

1. a description (two pages, 900 words maximum) of the work or work-in-progress being proposed, including:
 - a statement addressing how the work advances the composer's output and aesthetics, and the goals of the CoLABoratory: Playing it UNSafe program;
 - a description of any unusual instrumentation, electronics/multimedia, or other production elements employed in the proposed work, if any, and the rationale for their use.
 - how the composer intends to utilize the workshop process to develop the piece.
2. a completed submission form (available at www.americancomposers.org/coLABoratory);
3. one bound copy of a recent and representative musical score, clearly labeled with the composer's name and title of the work on the cover page (a recording may also be submitted, but is not required);
4. a current résumé for the composer including educational background, major teachers, awards, professional affiliations; *
5. a list of works, including title, year composed, instrumentation, duration, and performance history; *
6. for composers who have not had a work performed by a professional orchestra, a letter of recommendation from an established composer or other music professional, attesting to the applicant's accomplishments and potential as an orchestral composer (the recommendation may be sent under separate cover); * +
7. a self-addressed stamped envelope suitable for the return of materials (if you wish your material be returned to you). All supporting materials remain the property of American Composers Orchestra. ACO is not responsible for lost materials.

Proposals must be received (not postmarked) by 5pm on April 16, 2012. Participants will be selected by May 30, 2012. Full details and submission guidelines are available at:

www.americancomposers.org/coLABoratory

The address to use for inquiries and for sending a proposal is:

American Composers Orchestra
ATTN: CoLABoratory: Playing it UNSafe
240 West 35th Street, Suite 405
New York, NY 10001-2506
web: www.americancomposers.org/coLABoratory
email: CoLABoratory@americancomposers.org
tel: 212-977-8495 ext. 202

* not required for composers whose work has previously been performed by ACO

+ not required for composers who have been performed by a professional orchestra