

New Music for America

After the overwhelming success of the Ford Made in America (FMIA) project, a group of orchestras established the New Music for America consortium. Like FMIA, this is a collection of smaller budget orchestras (primarily Groups 5-8) coming together to commission an “A-List” composer to write a piece. In order that the work is performable by many different orchestras, the piece is to be written for a “Mozart sized” orchestra (exact details below). As with FMIA, the hope of the steering committee is to have the composition performed by at least one orchestra in all 50 states.

Because commissioning is often beyond the means and capacity of what a small-budget orchestra can do, this consortium model works well to allow regional ensembles the ability to take pride and ownership in the creation of a new work, while at the same time being able to afford it. Beyond this, the benefits to participating orchestras are far reaching: communities are proud to be a part of a nationwide effort; important music is added to the repertoire; and because of the number of performances nationwide, the piece will have instant recognition and credibility. The price to buy-in to the consortium is based on the orchestra’s budget size (with a premium paid for premieres in the different time zones).

For the first iteration of NMFA, award-winning composer Stephen Paulus has been commissioned to write a work with the following specifications:

- a. **Composer:** Stephen Paulus (www.stephenpaulus.com)
- b. **Premiere Season:** 2014-2015
- c. **Instrumentation:** The work shall be scored for a maximum instrumentation as follows, with doublings and transpositions limited to those indicated: 2 flutes (2nd doubling piccolo), 2 oboes, 2 clarinets in B-flat, 2 bassoons; 2 horns in F, 2 trumpets in C, 1 Trombone; one piano, one percussion, one timpani; strings. Percussion instruments used shall be mutually agreed upon by the composer and the steering committee.
- d. **Score Delivery:** The score will be completed during the spring of 2014 with performing materials available in Summer 2014.
- e. **Duration:** 15-17 minutes
- f. **Territorial Premieres:** The country has been divided by time zones – Eastern, Central, Mountain, Pacific. Once a territorial premiere date has been set, the other orchestras in that same time zone are free to set their own state or local performance dates.

The steering committee is still looking for orchestras from: AL, AZ, CO, CT, FL, HI, KS, LA, MD, MO, MS, MT, ND, OR, SC, SD, UT, WA, WI, WV. The Central time zone premiering orchestra is yet to be identified. We encourage you to participate in this exciting project, please contact committee chair Robert Rosoff at: bob.rosoff@gmail.com.