

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION FOR COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE**

### **Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN**

#### **OVERVIEW**

In the same vein as the [Artists-in-Residence \(AiR\) program](#), DPC initiated a proposal to start a Composer-in-Residence (CiR) program beginning in the fall of 2017. The CiR is an effective and natural addition to an already active music program, and it is our goal to have a continuous program in which local composers and sound artists can have their works performed in our beautiful historic sanctuary and chapel.

For a period of approximately 1½ years (16 months), in a mutually agreed, non-stipendiary exchange with DPC, composers will work directly with church leadership to create music designed specifically for liturgy. In a composer's first half of their first year, they will work with the previous year's CiR; once comfortable, they will work independently the second half year; and in the third and final half year, they will help mentor the next CiR. In exchange, DPC will provide the rehearsal and performance space, rehearsal time, and as needed and available, congregational musicians for rehearsals and performance of the compositions during a church service or event.

#### **SPECIFICS**

*Purpose:* The CiR is available to the congregation and to the music program for the creation of music designed for liturgy. The number of pieces will be determined throughout the experience in a mutual agreement between the CiR and respective parties, no less than 3 and not to exceed 6.

*Reporting:* The CiR will report to the Worship & Arts committee and will attend their monthly meetings and their annual retreat. The CiR will present any issues or complications with the works created to the Worship & Arts committee. The CiR will compose new music for specific church needs and functions as determined by the pastor, the director of music, and the Worship & Arts committee in conjunction with the CiR's input. Worship themes will be planned well in advance to allow the CiR to have ample time to provide the necessary compositions.

*Term:* The CiR program will coincide with the regular music program's season, plus four months, primarily August through Pentecost and continuing to the following Christmas. The CiR would serve a sixteen (16) month term. The ideal plan would be to have one new CiR every year to provide a full opportunity for growth, with the previous CiR mentoring the new appointee through the Advent season.

*Payment:* While this program is based on a mutually agreed, non-stipendiary exchange, an option for allowing payment is possible. If a member of the congregation would like to commission a work from the CiR, a rate starting at a minimum of \$500 per piece will

be used, based on length and instrumentation, and may be considerably more. This fee would be negotiated with the involved parties and due when the final draft of each respective work is given to the Worship & Arts committee and the commissioning party. If the CiR decides to write a work independent of an ask, it does not require funding.

*Contracts:* The CiR, the Worship & Arts committee, and the commissioning party (if applicable) would draft and sign a contract for each specific piece created. Either party may terminate the contract with appropriate notice.

*Rights:* The CiR would immediately retain all necessary publishing, recording, and distribution rights for any works created, as well as performing rights following the CiR program term. One free publication of each work would be submitted to the church music library for future use. The CiR would have the right to compose other works not in conjunction with this program and retain all necessary rights for those works. The music program would have the right of first and continued performance and/or recording of any works created. The Worship & Arts committee would have right of first refusal for each suggested work upon advisement of the director of music, whether suggested by a commissioning party or by the CiR. The director of music would have the authority to not perform the work with the music program's ensemble(s) if the director of music a) deems the work not of a high enough quality, b) does not have the necessary preparation time for the work, and/or c) specifies other reasons to the CiR and the commissioning party (if applicable), to be determined. The commissioning party (if applicable) would have the right to distribute the work.

*Dedication:* The dedication for each piece (if applicable) would be agreed upon by the director of music, the CiR, and the commissioning party.

*Other:* The church will provide the space and musicians (adult and youth choirs, conductor, organist, and other church musicians/instrumentalists) for rehearsals and performance of the compositions during a church service or event.

*Example list of pieces:* anthem, congregational mass, open/closing voluntary, hymn, descants for hymns, sound landscapes

*DPC's musical resources:* adult choir (small SATB choir, acapella or accompanied), youth choir, piano, organ, handbells, congregational instrumentalists which might include guitar, ukulele, bass guitar, violin, French horn, trombone, percussion, drum set, et al [*availability of instruments and performers must be verified well in advance of composition*]