



SCI

Society of Composers, Inc.

... dedicated to the
promotion, composition,
performance, understanding
and dissemination of
new and contemporary
music ...

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

XLI: 2, March–April 2011

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Join SCI



SCI is an organization for composers. Our membership categories include full member, student member, retired member or life member.

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FEATURE: NEW REGION VIII CO-CHAIR

Robert Hutchinson: New Region VIII Co-Chair

By Robert Hutchinson

Robert Hutchinson is Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. He received a Ph.D. in Composition from the University of Oregon in 1998, a Master of Music in Composition from Northern Arizona University in 1993, and a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts from California State University Bakersfield in 1992.

He hosted the Region VIII Society of Composers' Conference in March 2010. His recent commissions include *Pas de Quatre* for string quartet for the Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival, *The Forest Nocturnal Triptych* for the Peninsula High School Band, *As the Blue Night Descends Upon the World* for the Tacoma Concert Band, *Fantasia on Themes of Mozart* for the Northwest Sinfonietta, *Suite for Wind Quartet* for the Auburn Chamber Winds, *From the Sea to the Stars* for the Tacoma Youth Symphony, and *Liberatio in Morte* for the Oregon Wind Ensemble, Oregon Festival Choirs, and the Oregon Festival of American Music.

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Region VIII Conference host Rob Hutchinson
with guest composer Carter Pann



About the Newsletter

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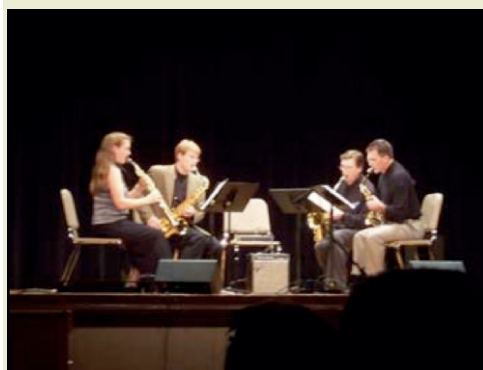
How to Submit Items to the Newsletter

Articles: The Newsletter welcomes submissions of articles to run in future issues. Articles, if accepted, may be edited for length and content. Please include a photo with all submissions if possible (photo may be of author).

Member News + Photos: Please send all member news and activities with a photo. Submitted items may be edited.

Ideas/Suggestions: The Editors welcome any other ideas or suggestions.

Submit to the newsletter via email at:
newsletter@societyofcomposers.org



Upcoming SCI Events

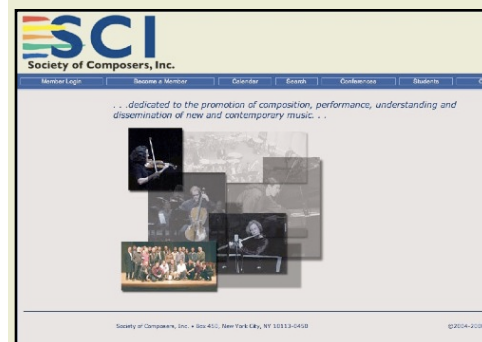
**2011 Region VI Conference
 April 8–10, 2011**

University of Central Missouri

Host: Eric Honour

[\[honour@ucmo.edu\]](mailto:honour@ucmo.edu)

Submission Deadline: November 29, 2010



Internet & Email

www.societyofcomposers.org

- Conference dates and submission guidelines
- Contact information and links to member web-pages
- Student chapters and opportunities
- CDs and journals produced by SCI
- Details on SCI such as membership options, listings and contacts for officers, regional structure, by-laws, newsletter archives and more...

SCION

SCION is a listing of opportunities on our website exclusively for members. It is updated on a continual basis so that it may be checked at any time for the most current notices. In addition, members are emailed on the first Monday of each month to remind them to visit the site for new or recent postings. The large number of listings is easily managed by a table of contents with links to the individual notices. In-depth coverage; contest listings in full; all items listed until expiration; this is a valuable resource that you may print in its entirety or in part at any time.

John Bilotta, SCION Editor
scion@societyofcomposers.org

scimembers

scimembers is a member-driven e-mail mailing list that is intended to facilitate communication between members of the Society on topics of concern to composers of contemporary concert music. It conveys whatever notices or messages are sent by its members, including announcements of performances and professional opportunities, as well as discussions on a wide variety of topics. For more information, including how to join and participate in the listserv:

<http://www.societyofcomposers.org/data/publications/listserv/listserv.html>

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Message from the Editor



Benjamin Williams

As anyone involved with new music would soon discover, it is an ever-changing field that is more than a little difficult to keep on top of. The same is true with new music performers and organizations across the country and around the world.

I am pleased to be able to introduce you to one new member of the SCI National Council, Robert Hutchinson, the new Co-Chair of Region VIII. Do take time to read through his biography on *page 1*. He has already been a great asset to the organization in facilitating the recent Region VIII Conference, among other things.

As the organization continues to evolve, I hope each of its members takes the opportunity to step out and volunteer to help: anything from hosting conferences to simply participating on the listserv. I hope to see more and more members actively involved as SCI continues to serve the ever-changing new-music scene.

Benjamin Williams
Editor, SCI Newsletter

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Dealing with the Ups and Downs of Being a Composer

By Ralph Kendrick

Several weeks ago, I received two rejection letters on the same day for composing opportunities for which I had applied. While rejection is a normal part of any composer's existence, and is normally something I'm able to shrug off, the piling on of bad news in the same day got to me a bit. I began to wonder how other composers dealt with this constant ebb and flow of a little good news and a whole bunch of bad news. An informal survey revealed some interesting results.

Several composers talked about having low expectations when entering contests or performance opportunities. With this approach, they were pleasantly surprised when receiving the news that they had won or had their work selected for a performance. One composer had a heart-wrenching story of being homeless for ten weeks. Given that perspective, he finds having a piece rejected as the least of his worries.

Others discussed the idea of balance in their lives; where being a composer is but one part of their entire existence as a teacher, parent, husband, performer and an active member of their community. The benefits of a balanced approach include multiple sources of good news. Then, the composer just needs to focus on the good news and not the bad. For example, today I was rejected from a competition but so what, I had a great afternoon playing with son.

The successful composer Joan Tower echoes these sentiments when she provides the following advice to young composers. "Don't look to composing to provide the sense of satisfaction in your life. It will always be frustrating. Make

sure you have other things in your life which give you satisfaction."

Some fascinating statistics emerged from the survey as well. One composer noted that he wins about one competition a year and submits about one application per week. Another discussed winning two or three competitions out of the 33 he had entered thus far. Though a small sample, these testimonials suggest a paltry success rate of 2–9% for competitions.

Why bother entering then? Several composers highlighted the marketing benefits of entering competitions or submitting to conferences. They felt that getting their name in front of other musicians they did not know provided them with valuable exposure. One composer even said, "I've gotten a variety of performances over the years, from losing competitions."

And it is a bit like the lottery, you can't win if you don't play. Keeping the odds in mind and keeping expectations in check with those odds seems to be a successful approach.

Finally, numerous composers said it was good to remind oneself that we do not compose to win awards; we compose because we have to. We have an innate desire to create, and that process of creating and completing something is satisfying all by itself.

Amen to that!

Ralph Kendrick
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Robert Hutchinson: New Region VIII Co-Chair

(Continued from Page 1)

His recent performances at SCI conferences include *Jeux d'Enfants* for band at the Region VIII conference in Tacoma in 2010, *As the Blue Night Descends upon the World* at the Region VI conference in Oklahoma City in 2009 and at the Region VIII conference in Turlock, California, in 2008, *Variations on Giant Steps* at the Region VI Conference at the University of Texas–San Antonio in 2005, *Dancing on the Strand* for band and *Jeux d'Enfants* for orchestra at the national conference at the University of Central Oklahoma in 2004, *Jeux d'Enfants* and *The Slow Voyage Through Night* for band at the Region VIII conference in Ellensburg, Washington, in 2003, and *The Slow Voyage Through Night* for sym-



Region VIII Conference host Rob Hutchinson, guest composer Carter Pann, SCI composers Alejandro Rutty, Greg Simon and Lan-chee Lam

phonic band at the national conference in Akron in 2002.

Hutchinson's *Dancing on the Strand* was also presented at the Symposium 29 for New Band Music in Richmond, Virginia, in February 2004 and at the CBDNA Southwestern Division Biennial Convention at Texas Christian University in March 2004. His *Jeux d'Enfants* was selected by the Charles Ives Center for American Music for a June 2002 premiere by the Charleston Symphony Orchestra at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina.

Hutchinson is also a jazz bassist and performs professionally in the Seattle-Tacoma area.

Robert Hutchinson
rhutchinson@pugetsound.edu

SCItings

Member News and Activities

Performances, Awards, Commissions, Honors, Publications and other Member Activities.

Guy Vollen

Guy Vollen's Concerto for Brass Trio and Small Orchestra received its world premiere performance by the Pegasus Brass Trio and the Delano Chamber Players February 27, 2011, conducted by Daniel Racer. The concert was held at West Side Baptist Church, in Wichita, Kansas.



Steven Rosenhaus

Steven Rosenhaus

On February 26, 2011 Lutenist Dieter Hennings performed with the Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra (ECCO), Ivar Lunde, conductor and music director; the concert, entitled "All American!", featured Mr. Hennings in the world

premiere of Steven L. Rosenhaus' Lute Concerto. The concert was held at Grace Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI.

Rosenhaus' Lute Concerto is a two-movement work for Baroque lute and a small ensemble consisting of 1 each of flute, oboe, and bassoon, and a small complement of strings. The meditative first movement is contrasted by the lively second movement, which has the sub-title "'Sonata Samba'"—as in "It's not a samba". The work explores the tonal qualities of the 7-course lute (the instrument has 7 single or pairs of strings) by itself and in juxtaposition with various combinations of the orchestral accompaniment.

Orlando Garcia

The world premiere of Garcia's new work In Memoriam Earle Brown was given by the Miami Symphony Orchestra and conductor Eduardo Marturet on February 12, 2011 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall and February 13, 2011 at the recently inaugurated New World Center on Miami Beach. The piece was commissioned by the orchestra and its director Eduardo Marturet.

Brian Fennelly

The premiere of Fantasia Concertante (2009) for violin, cello, and orchestra by soloists Duo Parnas (Madalyn and Cicely Parnas) with the Indiana University New Music Ensemble under David Dzubay took place February 5,

2011 at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

Written for Duo Parnas, Fantasia Concertante is an expansion with orchestra of 'Sigol' for Two, a duo written for them in 2008 and recorded on their Sheffield lab CD "Gare du Nord," a CD chose by Gene Gaudette on his blog as one of the 10 best CDs of 2010.

Elizabeth Austin

Austin and her music were featured in an article published in the January 2011 edition of the online journal *Scope*. The article, "Composer-in-Waiting," was written by Michael K. Slayton.

Jerry Casey

Casey's CD, Yet, I Will Rejoice, featuring choral and vocal chamber music, has been released on CDBaby.com. It is available as a CD or a digital download.

Diane Jones

The premiere of FireDance, commissioned by Melomanie (www.melomanie.org), took place January 15, 2011 at Grace United Methodist Church in Wilmington, DE.

How to Submit SCItings to the Newsletter

Member News + Photos: Please send all member news and activities with a photo. (Submitted items may be edited.)

Submit to the newsletter via email at: newsletter@societyofcomposers.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For complete details, please visit <http://www.societyofcomposers.org/data/organization/membership.html>.

FULL MEMBERSHIP (\$55/year): Eligible to submit scores to the National Conferences, regional conferences, SCI Recording Series, SCI Journal of Music Scores. Access to the SCI Newsletter in electronic form. Optional subscription to [scimembers], the SCI listserv and all other SCI publications. Eligible to vote on Society Matters and in elections for the National Council.

JOINT MEMBERSHIP (\$75/year): Same benefits as full members

SENIOR MEMBERSHIP (\$27.50/year): Open to those 65 years of age or older, or retired. Same benefits as full members.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (\$27.50/year): Open to performers and other interested professionals. Receives the SCI Newsletter in electronic form and can participate in national and regional conferences.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP (\$27.50/year): Eligible to submit to national and regional conferences and to vote in society matters. Access to all SCI publications.

STUDENT CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP (\$17.50/year): Same benefits as student members, but only available on campuses having Student Chapters.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP (\$25/year): Organizations receive hard copy of the SCI Newsletter and other mailings.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (\$1100 or \$120/year for 10 years): Benefits the same as full members, for life.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications include the *SCI Newsletter*, *SCI Recording Series*, *Performers CD Series*, *SCI Journal of Music Scores* and **SCION** (monthly e-mail listing of announcements and opportunities for composers).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements of contests, calls for scores and other solicitation appear in the *SCI Newsletter* and **SCION** as a service to SCI members. While every effort is made to assure the accuracy of these announcements, SCI cannot accept responsibility for errors, misrepresentations, or misinterpretations.

P I X E L P E R F E C T : M E M B E R P H O T O S

Pixel Perfect

Photos of SCI Members

Photos of composers featured in recent issues of the Newsletter with activities described in the *SCItings* section (page 5, this issue).



Daniel Adams



Paul A. Epstein



Dorothy Hindman