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Howard Dratch
Somerset Foundation

Dear Mr. Dratch,

As a Los Angeles composer, it is my privilege to write this letter in support of Hear Now, the annual Los Angeles-based festival that features composers residing in the greater LA area. I've participated in two concerts with this dynamic organization since its inception. My compositions were well-rehearsed, received with acclaim, and heard by packed houses. I've attended a number of concerts produced by Hear Now over the past few years and they consistently demonstrate performances of the highest quality, curated with care, imagination, and an openness that embraces an extremely wide stylistic spectrum. Many annual festivals of music tend to represent one main stylistic tendency; a significant strength of Hear Now, and a quality that sets it apart, is the willingness to program works that represent the astonishing diversity of composers working in LA.

Each spring, Hear Now generates that special brand of excited anticipation that marathon concert weekends are known for. I hesitate to use the word 'marathon,' as the Hear Now concerts have consistently expanded to encompass additional concerts aside from the concentrated weekend events. The most recent development for offering new opportunities to composers is the addition of a concert that will be devoted to orchestral music, building on a vibrant new relationship with UCLA, and opening this coveted opportunity for an orchestral concert to composers in our area.

The service that Hear Now provides to composers in LA is inestimable. By concentrating performances of LA composers' compositions into a brief weekend or two, the festival makes it more efficient and attractive to acquaint ourselves with our colleagues' music, and to network with musicians. Attending concerts of contemporary music is often a challenging endeavor in such a vast geographic locale, with new music activities and initiatives scheduled from Pasadena to Long Beach, from Santa Clarita to Santa Monica (not to mention downtown). By targeting specific venues and by representing the enormous array of LA-based composers, Hear Now provides a dual service to its audience and to the composers. I hope that you are able to provide additional support for this most deserving organization, enhancing its steady growth over the past few years, and empowering Hear Now to continue to create stimulating concerts, connections and musical conversations.

Yours truly,



Dr. Anne LeBaron

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