

APPLICATION – please follow the format provided below.

A. Abstract: *(100 word limit using Microsoft Word – please post word count at the end of your abstract)* Describe briefly how the funds for which you are applying will be used. If funded, the abstract will be posted to the CoTA website.

The funds I am requesting will help pay for the travel, lodging, meals and conference fees associated with my invitation to perform at the College Music Society International Conference in Belgium, held July 11-18, 2019. My proposal “New Music: The Legacy of the Tenor Saxophone” features my own original compositions as a well collaborative composition with saxophonist Dr. Jeremy Brown, University of Calgary Professor of Music, with whom I am collaborating on this concert as well as other concerts and recording projects. The program is all original works, written for 2 tenor saxophones especially for myself and Dr. Brown. (99 words)

B. Proposal: *(500 word limit using Microsoft Word – please post word count at the end of your proposal)* Describe the goals of your project / activity / conference and the areas in which your project supports the strategic goals and objectives of the unit, college and university.

This project is a result of a new research/performance collaboration with Dr. Jeremy Brown, noted saxophonist, woodwind specialist, and composer who is Professor of Music at the University of Calgary where I was appointed as the Fulbright Research Chair in The College of Creative and Performing Arts in 2017-18. We have started a new group which features 2 saxophones and/or woodwinds plus piano, performing new, original music written especially for the group by myself and Dr. Brown. This is a new project, with expectations of expanding our repertoire as we move forward, including possibilities for commissioned works by other composers. We have plans for concerts and recordings in the US and Canada, including other conference performances that we are awaiting notification.

Jeremy Brown is well known in the saxophone performance field as a concert artist, having performed as a featured soloist with numerous orchestras, wind ensembles and chamber groups. He is also an outstanding jazz saxophonist. My area of expertise is as a jazz saxophonist, a noted soloist and improviser with numerous recordings and concert credits. I also have significant professional experience in the “classical” saxophone field. This music we are composing for this group is an exploration of the saxophone legacy, combining Jazz styles with 21st century saxophone composition techniques.

The music we are performing for our concert at the College Music Society (CMS) International Conference includes works written to celebrate the “Legacy of the Tenor Saxophone.” This music connects to the conference theme, “Imagined Boundaries: Embracing Traditions, Diversity, and Innovation in a Global Society” as the compositions

are based on the music African American Jazz saxophonists John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, and Coleman Hawkins, all masters of the tenor saxophone whose innovations as improvisers and saxophonists are important contributions to the Jazz tradition. Each artist advanced the technical boundaries of the instrument as performers and innovators in the art of improvisation. Each of these Jazz masters were leaders in their eras, creating an improvisational “language” of their own, based on jazz traditions, but reaching beyond those traditions to explore new territory.

It should also be noted that the inventor of the saxophone, Adolphe Sax is from Belgium, another connection to the host country, and an area of research interest for Dr. Brown and myself while in Belgium.

This performance and the larger research initiative is an important contribution to our field. The larger goal is a new, 21st Century musical exploration, based in traditions associated with the saxophone (and woodwind) legacy. The group is an international collaboration between noted artists in the saxophone field performing new original music especially written to feature the wide-ranging talents of the performers/composers. Future plans include concerts, recordings and other noted conference appearances.

These research initiatives and the prestigious invitation to perform at the International Conference of the College Music Society support the strategic goals and objectives for Arts Research in the School of Music, College of the Arts and University, including interdisciplinary work and global exploration of perspectives.
(495 words)

C. Anticipated Benefits: *(250 word limit using Microsoft Word – please post word count at the end of your anticipated benefits)* Describe the ways in which the proposed goals will be used to enhance your research and the impact/significance of the research to your discipline.

This invitation to perform at the CMS International Conference is an important beginning to this new collaboration, generating the creation of new works and opportunities for future performances and recordings. Our plans for this project is to grow and establish a niche in the field of saxophone performance, exploring the combination of jazz and contemporary “classical” saxophone music. These areas have been segregated in the past, so our approach is reflective of a more modern attitude toward saxophone performance in the 21st century. It is expected that this collaboration will generate interest in our field because of nature of the new music being created and the high level of performance skills we bring to concert situations.

While the refereed invitation to perform at the CMS conference in Belgium is prestigious and an indication of the high level of the performers, we are looking at this as a beginning to an important research initiative that will continue well into the future. The opportunity

for the continued development of this international collaboration is exciting and the plans for future activities should help establish a significant presence in the field.

This performance and research initiative is another important step in my personal research as a composer and performer. I have established myself as both a composer and performer of note, with recordings and concerts of my original music in the US and Canada in recent years, and as a featured soloist on the Grammy finalist recordings of Chuck Owen and the Jazz Surge.

(250 words)