

**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.

As President of ISJAC (International Society of Jazz Arrangers & Composers) I am producing and hosting the International Jazz Composers Symposium at the University of Northern Colorado, May 16-18, 2019. Approximately 300 composers are expected to register for the 2 ½ day event with an additional 1,000 individuals attending the evening concerts. The last Symposium (hosted by USF in 2017) drew composers from over 30 different States and 8 countries. I will play a prominent and visible role throughout the conference. CoTA funding is being requested to offset travel & hotel expenses during the run of the conference. (98)

**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.

The International Jazz Composers' Symposium debuted at USF in 2006 as an off-shoot of the USF Center for Jazz Composition. It was so well received that it was produced again in 2008 – drawing almost 50% more attendees than at the already robust 2006 event. After funding for the CJC was discontinued in 2009, the Symposium lacked for a sponsor until ISJAC came into being 4 years ago. One of its first initiatives was to rekindle this world-wide gathering of jazz composers which had so inspired and galvanized the community. The 2017 event, held this time in USF's new School of Music facilities, was an highly successful re-birth, with attendance spiking to new heights and individuals traveling from great distances. (Well over 80% of those attending came from outside of Florida.)

The 2019 Symposium will be held away from the USF campus for the first time, hosted by the University of Northern Colorado who will be showing off their own brand-new facility. Nevertheless, as a founding Consortium Member of ISJAC, USF's brand will still be quite visible. My role is a dual one: producing the conference (as Chair of the JCS committee) as well as presiding over other events as President of ISJAC. Specific duties include offering the ISJAC Presidential address prior to the Keynote speech, hosting two receptions as well as a general membership open visioning session, conducting the semi-annual ISJAC Board meeting, and presenting the ISJAC/USF "Owen Prize" in Jazz Composition to the 2019 winner whose winning piece will be debuted at the Symposium's "SONIC" Concert.

Work began on conference planning almost as soon as the prior one ended and will continue right up to the May 16-18 event. The featured guest artists this year are a diverse and highly feted group: Ron Miles, Bill Frisell, Chris Potter, Christine Jensen, Darcy James Argue, & Vince Mendoza. . . . all of whom I have hired. A Call for Scores and Research Papers was issued worldwide and attracted almost 150 applicants, including those from 8 countries outside the USA. Adjudication panels will begin their selection process over the next 6 weeks with some 40+ new works featured at the conference. In addition, ISJAC will once again present its Hall of Fame Awards to several esteemed composers as we did with Chick Corea in Tampa in 2017. In short, it should prove to be an absolutely fabulous 2 ½ days

of music, scholarship, and conversation. . . . . a vision that was conceived and nurtured at USF and that continues to bear my imprimatur.

The University's strategic vision values "high-impact scholarship, research and creative activities". Having already become one of the foremost venues for jazz composers to present their new work, the Jazz Composers' Symposium provides exactly that.

To assist with conference production, I will need to arrive no later than Tuesday May 14. Wed., the 15<sup>th</sup>, tasks will include not only conference set-up but the annual ISJAC Board meeting as well. The Symposium launches on Thursday. (499 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.

ISJAC was founded in order to better serve, inspire, and draw attention to the world-wide community of jazz composers & arrangers. The Jazz Composers' Symposium is the society's bi-annual gathering and its most visible, popular production. Having founded both entities, I sincerely hope the biggest beneficiaries of this conference are our members, the discipline, and ISJAC itself. . . . .not my personal/artistic agenda. However, as one might surmise, the two are inextricably linked. The 2017 Symposium featured the premier of material from my then unreleased CD "Whispers on the Wind". Six months later it garnered 4 Grammy nominations. The two were not unrelated!! Many voting members of NARAS were at that concert and even those that weren't able to vote were instrumental in spreading the word.

While my role at the 2019 Conference will not be as featured artist this time around, I will certainly be omnipresent: hosting events, giving brief speeches & introductions, presenting awards, presiding over meetings, and, most importantly, greeting and talking to our growing membership. This will continue to contribute to my future success and visibility as a jazz composer as this community is the very one that is primarily likely to commission new works, feature me in guest appearances with their jazz ensembles or residencies at their universities, and, of course, purchase my CDs and compositions. (223 Words)