

## Concerto Initiative

*Overview: The “Concerto Initiative” is a project designed to commission melody driven concerti a half-hour in length for regional-size orchestras.*

The Concerto Initiative’s mission is to commission concerti a half-hour in length for regional-size orchestras. In an effort to win back audiences lost by atonal music, the new concerti must show an inventive and compelling use of melody. In the last 50 years no new concerti for violin and cello have entered repertoire. It is the hope of the Concerto Initiative to address that vacuum.

The Concerto Initiative had its start in 2013, when the leadership at Hopkins Center approved the Initiative’s first concerto, The Metropolis Concerto for Violin and Wind Ensemble by composer Richard Marriott. It premiered at Spaulding Auditorium in February 2015. The Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra was host to the Concerto Initiative’s second project with the Hop, and that was the May 2019 Orozco Concerto by composer Noah Luna, inspired by the murals in Baker Library. Portions were broadcast on NPR with soloist Gabriel Cabezas.

The Concerto Initiative is now moving forward with the Hop on a third proposal: the Nosferatu Project. Richard Marriott’s Metropolis Concerto proved to be such a positive learning experience that he is being invited back by the Wind Ensemble’s new Music Director Brian Messier, this time to expand for full wind ensemble his score for the classic German expressionist silent film Nosferatu. 2022 is the 100th anniversary of the release of Nosferatu, which is often screened as Halloween entertainment. The target date is late October of 2022 for the world premiere in Spaulding Auditorium.

The goal of the Concerto Initiative is to nurture composers with a feel for melody whose concerti will appeal to both students and the general public. The hope is that any concerti after a premiere at Dartmouth will find a home in concert halls throughout the world. The ultimate test is to enter repertoire, that is, played frequently.

The “Concerto Initiative” is an official project of the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), a nonprofit service that acts as a fiscal sponsor. This means any charitable contributions made through NYFA for the Concerto Initiative meet the 501c3 standards of the IRS for tax credits. The NYFA web site is: <https://www.nyfa.org>

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