

UNI 2019-20 CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT COMPETITION APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Letters of Intent Due: **October 11, 2019**

Applications Due: **November 4, 2019**

Amount Requested:

Project Title:

Start Date:

End Date:

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Name:	Department:	E-mail:	Phone:
Cayla Bellamy	School of Music	cayla.bellamy@uni.edu	3-2374

Attach additional sheets as needed

ABSTRACT (Max. 250 WORDS)

This project will result in the edited draft of a professionally recorded album of four new American bassoon concerti, each written by living composers and performed by UNI Assistant Professor of Bassoon Cayla Bellamy during the 2019-2020 academic year. The proposed album and subsequent recital and recording of the works with reduced orchestration (for bassoon and piano) will create the first ever professional recording of both Joan Tower's *Red Maple* and John Steinmetz's *Illusion of Togetherness*, as well as the second recording Libby Larsen's *Full Moon in the City* and James Stephenson's *Dialogue of Self and Soul*. Bellamy will perform the four concerti between October 2019 and May 2020 in a series of educational and regional ensemble collaborations, featuring the students and community members of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Northern Iowa Wind Ensemble, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, and Herricks High School Chamber Orchestra. In the fall 2020 semester, she will present a local concert of the same works orchestrated for bassoon and piano, which will serve as companion tracks to the full live concert recordings. The digital album release will also include a professionally edited music video of the *Illusion of Togetherness* premiere at Lincoln Center in New York City, scheduled for May 29, 2020.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES

Project Director: _____ Date: Oct. 8, 2019

Department Head: _____ Date: 10/8/19

October 8, 2019

To the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs:

My name is Cayla Bellamy, and I am the Assistant Professor of Bassoon at the University of Northern Iowa, writing with an intent to apply for a 2019-2020 Capacity Building Internal Grant in support of my project, a professional recording of four new music compositions written by living American composers and featuring the bassoon as a solo instrument. The assistance requested for this project will result in the release of a professionally recorded album of all four new concerti, each performed by me throughout the 2019-2020 academic year. The proposed album and subsequent recital of the works with reduced orchestration (for bassoon and piano) will create the first ever professional recording of both Joan Tower's *Red Maple* and John Steinmetz's *Illusion of Togetherness*, as well as the second recording Libby Larsen's *Full Moon in the City* and James Stephenson's *Dialogue of Self and Soul*. I will perform the four concerti in a series of educational and regional collaborations, featuring the students and community members of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Northern Iowa Wind Ensemble, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, and Herricks High School Chamber Orchestra.

As a creative production, this album will fill a void in the recording industry for these pieces, each of which has been written by a well-known and successful composer with a large oeuvre. Libby Larsen and Joan Tower, two of contemporary classical music's most well known female composers, both have collected works numbering over 500 and have each garnered multiple GRAMMY awards, and Ms. Tower was named the 2019 Gold Baton Recipient from the League of American Orchestras. Larsen's *Full Moon in the City*, performed October 2019 with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, incorporates jazz, classic rock, blues idioms into a yearning three-movement work. In Tower's *Red Maple*, performed March 2020 with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra, the bassoon's unique "woody" timbre is paired with its other wooden instrument counterparts for an exploration of sounds used both in historical and contemporary classical settings.

Leaving the more concrete and audible aspects aside, James Stephenson and John Steinmetz both use the bassoon in these works to explore the concept of self and our relationship to those around us. In Stephenson's *Dialogue of Self and Soul*, performed November 2019 with the Northern Iowa Wind Ensemble and Michelle Monroe, UNI voice faculty, includes a setting of the text of the same name by William Butler Yates, ultimately pitting the two movements and characters of the bassoon against one another in a discussion of our private and public selves. Similarly, Steinmetz sets the bassoon as soloist both within and contrary to a full string orchestra in his newest concerto, *Illusion of Togetherness*, commissioned by the Keene Chamber Symphony in consortium with Bellamy and twenty other American bassoonists and performed for this recording with the Herricks Chamber Symphony in May 2020.

This project is invaluable both to the bassoon and music composition communities. My previous performance activity, with the support of a Provost Pre-Tenure Grant in 2017, resulted in the debut album *Double or Nothing*, a project which expanded the recorded repertoire of new works for bassoon solo and duo, and this project escalates that drive for new music creation and exposure to include large ensembles of symphony orchestra and wind band as they feature the bassoon in a soloist capacity.

Professional recordings of premiere performances such as these are relatively rare, with performers often opting for the safety of a processed and edited final product. With a true representative performance as the recording, however, the honesty, genuine expression, and real-time technical and musical decisions mandated by the most innovative musical compositions can be captured and archived.

The award of a Capacity Building Internal Grant would enable the recording process to begin fully and create a strong case for subsequent funding pursuit via New Music America and the Aaron Copland Foundation for American Music. Thank you for your consideration of this project, and I wish you the best in your decision making.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cayla Bellamy', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Cayla Bellamy, DM

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University of Northern Iowa
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