

# NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **Applications are now open for the 2025 Edward T. Cone Composition Institute**

NEWARK, NJ—New Jersey Symphony is now accepting applications for the 11th annual Edward T. Cone Composition Institute in partnership with American Composers Orchestra’s EarShot program. This tuition-free Institute is an opportunity designed to promote contemporary orchestral music by enhancing the careers of four emerging composers.

Winning composers will have their music performed by the New Jersey Symphony and will participate in in-depth career development sessions with industry leaders. The Institute will take place July 14–19 in Princeton, NJ, and culminate in a New Jersey Symphony performance of the participants’ works on Saturday, July 19 at 8 pm.

Composer Steven Mackey, a music professor and director of graduate studies in composition at Princeton University, is the institute director. Christopher Rountree, a conductor and composer who is deeply embedded in the new music scene, returns as the Institute’s guest conductor.

Institute composers will hear their works in rehearsal and performance, participate in coaching sessions with Mackey and Rountree and receive musical feedback from New Jersey Symphony musicians. Career-development opportunities with industry leaders will provide the composers with insights into getting their music funded, published and performed.

The Institute is open to university composition students and composers in the early stages of their professional careers. The application form, composition requirements, program details and eligibility requirements are available at [njsymphony.org/institute](https://njsymphony.org/institute).

The New Jersey Symphony Edward T. Cone Composition Institute grew out of bi-annual reading sessions the Symphony held with Princeton University graduate students, beginning in 2000, and celebrates its namesake, Edward T. Cone for his legacy as both a composer and a Princeton University professor.

Composers will receive housing and meals in Princeton, and the New Jersey Symphony will reimburse participants up to \$250 towards travel costs.

- **Application deadline:** February 16, 2025
- **2025 Cone Institute:** July 14–19, 2025 in Princeton, NJ

For questions or more information, contact [coneinstitute@njsymphony.org](mailto:coneinstitute@njsymphony.org).

### **About EarShot**

American Composers Orchestra’s EarShot program is the nation’s first systemic pipeline for discovery, cultivation and relationship-building between composers and orchestras in partnership with national advocacy organizations. Through EarShot, ACO expands the definition of American orchestral music by measurably advancing diversity of style, culture and gender in the field. EarShot supports and amplifies the work of participating composers through highly visible activities in NYC and nationwide, including Readings, CoLABoratory Residencies, commissions and performances.

### **About New Jersey Symphony**

New Jersey Symphony is a GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning orchestra. Under the direction of the Music Director Xian Zhang, the Symphony performs more than 60 concerts at mainstage venues across the state, including Newark, Princeton, New Brunswick, Red Bank and Morristown as well as schools and public spaces statewide. Programming at the Symphony reflects an unwavering commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion while providing students across the state unparalleled opportunities to achieve musical excellence through its Youth Orchestra and other outreach programs. In 2024, the Symphony announced it would continue to deliver its statewide activities from a new, permanent office, rehearsal and concert space in Jersey City, set to open in 2026. For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit our website at [njsymphony.org](http://njsymphony.org) or our newsroom for press releases and photos.

### **Connect with us**

Follow NJ Symphony on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [X](#) and [YouTube](#)

###

### **Local press**

Ali Harrison, New Jersey Symphony, Communications Manager  
[aharrison@njsymphony.org](mailto:aharrison@njsymphony.org)

Geoffrey Anderson, New Jersey Symphony, VP of Marketing & External Affairs  
[ganderson@njsymphony.org](mailto:ganderson@njsymphony.org)

### **National & classical music press**

Shirley Kirshbaum, Kirshbaum Associates, President  
[skirshbaum@kirshbaumassociates.com](mailto:skirshbaum@kirshbaumassociates.com)

Beverly Greenfield, Kirshbaum Associates, Director of Public Relations  
[bgreenfield@kirshbaumassociates.com](mailto:bgreenfield@kirshbaumassociates.com)

*The New Jersey Symphony's programs are made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, along with many other foundations, corporations and individual donors.*

*The New Jersey Symphony, in partnership with EarShot, a program of the American Composers Orchestra, is accepting applications for the 2025 Edward T. Cone Composition Institute.*

*The Symphony presents the Institute in collaboration with Princeton University Department of Music.*

*Major underwriting support for the New Jersey Symphony Edward T. Cone Composition Institute is generously provided by the Edward T. Cone Foundation and Princeton University.*