

## FY2016

### Music Composition

### Panelist Biographies

**James Gaiters** is the drummer for the jazz group, *James Gaiter's Quartet "MUV-MeNT"*. He began to play drums at the age of four, influenced by his mother who was a concert pianist and also the church organist for his father who is a pastor. While going to college to study architecture, James began playing in the Ohio State University Jazz Ensemble. His first major break onto the circuit was to join up with the jazz trumpeter and MoJazz recording artist, Pharez Whitted, with whom he toured the country extensively. James has also been a featured performer with Wynton Marsalis at New York's world renowned Village Vanguard, and was featured on a world tour with RCA/Victor recording artist D. D. Jackson.

**Gilda Lyons** is the Artistic and Executive Director of *The Phoenix Concerts*, New York's "intrepid" and "plucky Upper West Side new-music series" (*The New Yorker*). She received her Ph.D. in Music Composition from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and Bard College. Dr. Lyons made her professional debut as composer and vocalist with the American Symphony Chamber Orchestra in 1997, performing the world premiere of her orchestral song cycle *Feis*.

Recent premieres in Beijing, Tokyo, Seattle, San Francisco, New York, and Pittsburgh include *Great Barrier Reef* (Mirror Visions Ensemble; Performing Arts Library of Lincoln Center, NYC; Music at Meyer, San Francisco, CA); *walk, run, fly* (pre-recorded sound & Gilda Lyons, voice; The Flea Theater, New York City); *Lady Beetle* (Yumi Kurosawa, koto; Torifony Hall, Tokyo); *Moonlight Suite* (Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA); *La Novia de Tola* (Beijing New Music Ensemble, Beijing; Finisterra Trio, Seattle; Entelechron, New York City); *Invocations* (James Schlefer, shakuhachi & Gilda Lyons, voice; Kyo-Shin-An Arts, New York City) and *rapid transit* (Blythe Gaissert & Martha Guth, voice; 5 Borough Music Festival, New York City, available on iTunes and GPR Records).

Past commissions have come from The ASCAP Foundation / Charles Kingsford Fund, American Opera Projects, Amy Pivar Dances, Beijing New Music Ensemble, ComposersCollaborative Inc., Fort Greene Park Conservancy, Paul Sperry, Sweet Plantain String Quartet, and The Walt Whitman Project, among many others. Composer-in-Residencies include Wintergreen Summer Music Academy (2015); Vermont's New Music on the Point (2013); Seasons Music Festival in Washington State (2009-2012); and Hartford Women Composers Festival (2011). She currently teaches composition at The Hartt School, University of Hartford.

**Jonathan Schwabe** is Professor of Theory and Composition, and chairs the composition and theory area at the University of Northern Iowa School of Music (University Park,

IA). His works have been premiered at the Spoleto Festival, the Eastman School of Music, the Society of Composer's Midwest Festival, the Conductor's Institute, and the Midwest Band and Orchestra Festival. His orchestral work *As I Remember* was performed at the Kennedy Center in the summer of 1999 and has received numerous subsequent performances in the United States and Europe. In 2000 and 2004, his operas *The Hard Years* and *The Sojourner* (the latter based on the Carson McCullers short story) were premiered at the Maud Powell Music Festival under the direction of Kevin MacMahon.

Schwabe's works have been commissioned by the International Arts Chamber Orchestra, the Iowa Composer's Forum, the Palmetto Arts Trio, DanceWorks, the La Ste Duo, Illinois Valley Symphony, the Maude Powell Music Festival, and the Indiana Ballet Theatre. His principal teachers include Samuel Adler, John Anthony Lennon, and Dick Goodwin. He has participated in masterclasses with David Diamond, David Amram, and Karel Husa among others. His music is published by Musikverlag Bruno Uetz and Alafia Press.