**Shop Local: Support Your Local Composer!**

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**Upper Midwest Flute Association**

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Step 1: Finding a local composer beyond a known friend:

1. Check your local college/university
	1. Over 30 colleges in the state of Minnesota offer music courses/degrees (most have at least one composer on faculty)
	2. Bios of performers/music faculty on school’s website
2. Check out music studio or local high schools (music educators)
3. Internet search for composer + your town’s name

Step 2: Financing a commission:

1. State Arts Board (Minnesota State Arts Boards [MSAB]):
	1. http://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/
	2. http://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/artist-initiative.htm
2. Regional Arts Councils (Minnesota has over 10 regional arts councils)
	1. http://www.arts.state.mn.us/racs/index.htm
3. Professional Organizations can offer collaborative commissions
	1. http://www.flutenewmusicconsortium.com/commissions.html

Step 3: Tips with the commissioning/collaboration process:

1. Do your research!
	1. Find a composer who writes in a style that you enjoy
	2. Communicate with the composer. Think about:
		1. Instrumentation
		2. Length of composition
		3. Purpose of composition (concert opener, reflective work, etc.)
		4. MSAB Artist Initiative criteria:
			1. Artistic Quality of applicant
			2. Merit and Feasibility of the Artist Plan
			3. Impact or Benefit to the State and/or Creative Community
	3. The commissioning fee:
		1. Depends on experience of composer, length of piece, instrumentation, etc.
		2. Helpful links:
			1. https://composersforum.org/resources/commissioning-by-individuals/
			2. https://nmbx.newmusicusa.org/commissioning-fees-calculator/ (only applicable to experienced composers)
2. Don’t be afraid to talk to the composer about what works and what doesn’t. The best collaborations showcase both the performers and the composers!