

**Shop Local: Support Your Local Composer!**  
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Step 1: Finding a local composer beyond a known friend:

1. Check your local college/university
  - a. Over 30 colleges in the state of Minnesota offer music courses/degrees (most have at least one composer on faculty)
  - b. 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]):
  - a. <http://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/>
  - b. <http://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/artist-initiative.htm>
2. Regional Arts Councils (Minnesota has over 10 regional arts councils)
  - a. <http://www.arts.state.mn.us/racs/index.htm>
3. Professional Organizations can offer collaborative commissions
  - a. <http://www.fluteneuwmusicconsortium.com/commissions.html>

Step 3: Tips with the commissioning/collaboration process:

1. Do your research!
  - a. Find a composer who writes in a style that you enjoy
  - b. Communicate with the composer. Think about:
    - i. Instrumentation
    - ii. Length of composition
    - iii. Purpose of composition (concert opener, reflective work, etc.)
    - iv. 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
  - c. The commissioning fee:
    - i. Depends on experience of composer, length of piece, instrumentation, etc.
    - ii. 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!