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

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/](about:blank)
         2. [https://nmbx.newmusicusa.org/commissioning-fees-calculator/](about:blank) (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!