

# High School Composer Initiative



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## PROJECT BEACON HIGH SCHOOL COMPOSER INITIATIVE

Brightwork newmusic partners with composer Nina Shekhar to identify, mentor, and perform the music of young composers living in Los Angeles County.

Pasadena, CA (September 14, 2020) - **Brightwork newmusic** is thrilled to partner with composer **Nina Shekhar** to present the **Project Beacon High School Composer Initiative** which aims to identify and mentor young composers. All students who are interested in composing for live instruments are encouraged to apply; we welcome students who have had the opportunity to study composition and those who haven't yet. **Students from groups that have been historically underrepresented in the field of classical music composition are especially encouraged to apply.**



From January – June 2021, a cohort of 6-10 young composers will participate in educational workshops presented by the members of Brightwork newmusic and receive individual mentoring and composition lessons from composer Nina Shekhar as they write new works for Brightwork Ensemble. The project will culminate with a performance and recording of the new compositions.

“In the midst of these trying times, we’re excited to announce our newest *Project Beacon* program: the **High School Composer Initiative**. This fresh and forward-looking project grows out of our commitment to mentoring the next generation of musicians as we introduce a diverse cadre of young LA composers to our audience, and to the world,” said **Aron Kallay**, Brightwork newmusic’s Executive and Artistic Director.

Brightwork is looking for high school students who are interested in studying composition for live instruments while being guided and mentored by world-class musicians. However, students who fall into any of the following categories who may not be composing yet, are also encouraged to apply:

- Students who may not have prior experience composing for live instruments, but are interested in learning
- Students who are passionate about music, play an instrument or sing and are curious about composing
- Students who may not read music notation but have created songs, beats or musical projects using GarageBand, Scratch, Ableton or other music technologies
- Students who create music as improvisers or songwriters, who may not label themselves as composers

**There is no fee to apply.** The quick and easy application is online and includes an opportunity to send a video file, audio file, or PDF that best demonstrates the applicant’s musical skill. More information at [brightworknewmusic.org/hsci](http://brightworknewmusic.org/hsci).

The High School Composer Initiative is supported by a 2020 Project Grant from New Music USA.

### **About Brightwork Ensemble**

Brightwork Ensemble is comprised of some of the finest chamber musicians in the world. Its instrumentation is frequently referred to as “Pierrot plus percussion” as it includes the instruments in Arnold Schoenberg’s “Pierrot Lunaire” (flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano) plus percussion. Members of Brightwork are Grammy-winners and Grammy-nominees. They perform with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and Los Angeles Opera and can be heard on soundtracks for major studio films. Equally committed to performing and teaching, Brightwork members hold teaching posts at local high schools, community arts schools and colleges and universities including, Chapman University, Idyllwild, Pomona College, and University of Redlands.

### **About Nina Shekhar**

Composer Nina Shekhar is a sought-after young artist whose works have been performed by Eighth Blackbird, International Contemporary Ensemble, and ETHEL. Current projects include commissions from Albany Symphony, Lyris Quartet, New York Youth Symphony, and violinist Jennifer Koh. Nina recently completed music composition graduate studies at University of Southern California where she also served as a teaching assistant for aural skills and composition courses. She will begin her doctorate at Princeton University in Fall 2020. She is currently an inaugural Debut Fellow of the Young Musicians Foundation, mentored by violinist and social activist Vijay Gupta.