



Contact:  
Public Relations  
San Francisco Symphony  
(415) 503-5474  
[publicrelations@sfsymphony.org](mailto:publicrelations@sfsymphony.org)  
[sfsymphony.org/press](https://sfsymphony.org/press)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / JUNE 16, 2021



## TREVOR WESTON SELECTED TO RECEIVE FIRST ANNUAL EMERGING BLACK COMPOSERS PROJECT COMMISSION

World premiere of Weston's new work to be given by Esa-Pekka Salonen and the San Francisco Symphony in Fall 2022

Additional commissions awarded to Jonathan Bingham,  
Shawn Okpebholo, and Sumi Tonooka

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The [San Francisco Symphony](#), in partnership with the [San Francisco Conservatory of Music](#) (SFCM) and the SFCM President's Advisory Council on Equity and Inclusion, announced today that [Trevor Weston](#) will receive the first commission of the annual [Emerging Black Composers Project](#). The San Francisco Symphony, led by Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen, will give the world premiere of his new commissioned work in the fall of 2022. Developed with artistic guidance from Oakland Symphony Music Director Michael Morgan, SFCM Music Director Edwin Outwater, and San Francisco Symphony Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen, the Emerging Black Composers Project initiative fosters the creation, workshop, and performance of new music from early-career Black American composers.

Trevor Weston is professor of music and chair of the Music Department at Drew University in Madison, NJ. His musical education began at Saint Thomas Choir School in New York City at the age of ten; he later graduated from Tufts University and continued his studies at the University of California, Berkeley where he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in music composition. In addition to his original catalogue of works ranging from orchestral, choral, and chamber pieces, Weston completed the re-orchestration of Florence Price's *Concerto in One Movement* for piano for the Center for Black Music Research in 2010. As winner of the Emerging Black Composers Project, he will receive a \$15,000 commissioning fee, mentorship from committee members, and resources to workshop his piece with San Francisco Symphony, along with its premiere at Davies Symphony Hall.

"Winning the first Emerging Black Composer Project is an immense honor and wonderful recognition," said Weston. "This is an incredible opportunity to develop my music with the mentorship of internationally acclaimed musicians and institutions."

Weston was selected through an anonymous review process by a selection committee led by Michael Morgan, Edwin Outwater, and Esa-Pekka Salonen, and also including music education and industry leaders John Adams, Elinor Armer, Carmen Bradford, Anthony Davis, Germaine Franco, and Joseph Young.

With thanks to supporters Michèle and Laurence Corash and in recognition of the level of skill and talent in the group of finalists, the selection committee also named three additional prizewinners: [Jonathan Bingham](#), [Shawn Okpebholo](#), and [Sumi Tonooka](#), each of who will receive a commissioning fee of \$8,000, mentorship by a composer on the committee, and workshopping along with a premiere of their new work by the Oakland Symphony, SFCM, or the National Brass Ensemble during the 2022–23 season.

"We are proud to name Trevor Weston the recipient of the first commission from the Emerging Black Composers Project," said Michael Morgan, who served as chair for the committee. "We are also thrilled to spotlight three additional promising artists whose careers we will eagerly follow. They remind us that talent is often more abundant than opportunity, and that music can and should bring people together across those lines."

[Click here](#) to access the Emerging Black Composers Project Press Kit, which includes artist headshots and a PDF of this press release.

#### MEDIA CONTACTS:

##### SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC:

Beth Giudicessi, [egiudicessi@sfc.edu](mailto:egiudicessi@sfc.edu)

Rachelle Roe, [artsetcpr@gmail.com](mailto:artsetcpr@gmail.com)

##### SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY:

Robin Freeman, [rfreeman@sfsymphony.org](mailto:rfreeman@sfsymphony.org)

Tatyana Filatova, [tfilatova@sfsymphony.org](mailto:tfilatova@sfsymphony.org)

---

Connect with the San Francisco Symphony on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), and [Soundcloud](#):



*The San Francisco Symphony receives support from more than 8,500 individual donors and 250 partner institutions.*

*Chevron is the inaugural Second Century Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.*

*Emirates is the Official Airline of the San Francisco Symphony.*

*Franklin Templeton and Fiduciary Trust International are Season Partners of the San Francisco Symphony.*

*Grants for the Arts is a Season Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.*

*The Emerging Black Composers Project is generously supported by Michèle and Laurence Corash.*

*The San Francisco Symphony's Official Radio Partner is KDFC, The Bay Area's Radio Home for Classical Music and the Arts*

*San Francisco Chronicle is the Official Media Partner of the San Francisco Symphony*

*- San Francisco Symphony -*