Kenan-Biddle Partnership Grant Proposal

I. Rationale/Executive Summary:

The ability to express emotion through the various mediums of the arts is what makes us uniquely human. Artists and musicians continually challenge us to reexamine how we view the world, its inhabitants, and more often than not, ourselves. As musicians, we are tasked with expressing emotion through the mastery of sound.

The Chapel Hill Contemporary Music Ensemble and the Duke New Music Ensemble each share the mission of advancing and innovating music through the constant production and performance of original compositions. Each ensemble exists solely to play and perform the work of student composers from each institution and to promote the genre of modern classical music as a whole. A collaborative ensemble consisting of student musicians performing the original works of student composers from both institutions would engage the community, develop ensemble musicianship, and create new and exciting music.

Often the vision of a student composer is limited by the reality of the situation before him or her: it can be difficult (nearly impossible) to get a large, competent group of musicians to play a piece of original music. With a collaborative ensemble of our size, composers from each institution would have many more tools at their disposal to advance and hone their craft.

All of the members of both the Chapel Hill Contemporary Music Ensemble and the Duke New Music Ensemble volunteer their time and efforts toward producing concerts and recordings of modern classical music. The individuals involved do this free of charge, for they understand the inherent value of promoting and performing the work of musicians and artists alike in today’s contemporary society.

This grant would facilitate artistic collaboration between each institution by covering the basic costs that ensembles incur when preparing to perform a concert. Specifically, a grant from the Kenan-Biddle Partnership would provide our combined ensemble with the funding necessary to perform and record three concerts of newly-composed music and all subsequent expenses.

When ensembles premiere the first performance of a musical composition, it is crucial that composers and performers are provided with high-quality audio and video recordings of the works to promote the efforts to the musical and non-musical community. Rather than simply recording the concert, much effort is expended to master audio and video tracks and produce a quality product. Our combined ensemble also plans to stream the live-recording of the concerts online so people from around the world can join us in experiencing these new works. In addition, an ensemble this large will require extensive funding to provide performers with sheet music, to print and distribute concert programs, and to pay for the recording and production of professional-quality recordings and promotional materials.
II. Proposed Activities:

Our collaboration would result in three concerts given by an inter-institutional ensemble that will feature the original music of Duke University and UNC composers. One concert would be at Duke University, the second at UNC, and a final concert at a local music venue. In order to prepare for each concert, frequent joint rehearsals and composition workshops will be conducted. Each concert will be given during the fall 2014 semester, giving the composers time to write pieces, and the ensemble time to rehearse them. Concerts will be free to the public with the hopes of sharing contemporary classical music with and new and diverse audiences.

Workshops will provide composers and performers from both universities the opportunity to collaborate on a regular basis. During these sessions each can provide the ensemble with constructive criticism and feedback to help develop the works and the musicianship of the ensemble itself. We will begin workshops in Spring 2014, allowing plenty of time for composers to craft unique and well-developed compositions for our Fall 2014 performances.

The student initiators of this proposal, as well as other directors from each ensemble, will communicate and meet regularly to organize these workshops. The ensemble will meet on a weekly basis to rehearse the newly-composed music by UNC and Duke University composers and discuss the ideas further with members from both institutions.

III. Statement about the qualifications of the individual/s making the proposal:

The individuals jointly submitting this proposal are uniquely qualified to organize an inter-institutional project through a collaborative music ensemble. The student initiators from each university submitting this proposal have experience serving as directors of their respective modern music ensembles, and maintain active roles in promoting the arts within their communities.

As director of Duke's New Music Ensemble, graduate composition student Jamie Keesecker is responsible for planning concert programs, coordinating ensemble rehearsals and logistical needs, organizing guest artist collaborations, and mobilizing the Duke University composition department students to write original music for the ensemble. He has served in administrative roles as coordinator of the new music ensemble at the Brevard Music Center (2008) and with the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium (2007 & 2009). Since coming to Duke University, he has served in elected positions on the Music Graduate Students Association Committee as the Composers' Meeting Coordinator and Social Events Chair. He maintains an active role as a collaborative artist in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area, working recently with artists across a wide array of disciplines to create new works incorporating visual media, scientific data, dance, and film.
The UNC student initiator of this proposal is Edmond Harrison, a senior Music Performance and Peace, War, and Defense double major. He currently serves as the Director of Finances for the Chapel Hill Contemporary Music Ensemble, where he oversees the ensemble’s fundraising efforts and expenses. As social director of UNC’s music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha, he has organized several concerts and fundraisers that have raised over $11,000 towards funding scholarships offered through the UNC Music Department. Additionally, he maintains an active role in the local artistic community as an Arts writer for The Daily Tar Heel. Edmond works part-time in the Department of Philanthropy at the North Carolina Symphony and serves the UNC Music Department as the carillonneur of the Morehead-Patterson Bell Tower.

The student and faculty initiators of this proposal contain the organizational and management experience necessary to form a collaborative collective of musicians that will ultimately foster inter-institutional knowledge and creative expression between our two universities.

IV. Programmatic benefits that would arise from the project:

While there has been some precedent for collaboration between music ensembles at Duke University and UNC, particularly by the band and wind ensemble programs at each institution, this project would further establish this commitment. To our knowledge, this would be the first instance of such a collaboration initiated by students from each institution. A precedent for student-initiated inter-institutional partnership will serve to further collaboration within the departments in the future.

We hope that this project will help promote modern classical music to audiences that otherwise would not be exposed. By providing free concerts at multiple locations and by streaming these concerts online, we are able to expose this repertoire to as wide an audience as possible. We hope that this project will help get others interested in the field of new music and advance the ideas and concepts of contemporary classical music itself.

V. An assessment of how the faculty member/s serving as advisor/s have demonstrated the ability to work across departmental or institutional boundaries:

UNC Professor Dr. Evan Feldman will be serving as the faculty advisor for this project. He currently serves as the conductor of UNC’s Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band, the Triangle Wind Ensemble, the Greensboro Concert Band, and is the faculty advisor of the Chapel Hill Contemporary Music Ensemble. He has consistently demonstrated the ability to work across institutional boundaries by coordinating an annual “Two Shades of Blue” concert series in conjunction with Dr. Verena Mösenbichler-Bryant, Director of the Duke University Wind Symphony. As a former music student of Duke University, Dr. Feldman understands first-hand the programs of its Department of Music. As the former Director of Undergraduate
Studies for the UNC Department of Music, he is also intensely involved in the curriculum development at UNC.

**VI. Statement of background for the project participants:**

The Chapel Hill Contemporary Music Ensemble consists of nearly 50 members, the majority of whom are current UNC students in pursuit of music degrees. With approximately 40 performers and 10 composers each semester, the ensemble is one of the largest of its kind, performing primarily 21st century music by composers from the community and around the world. The ensemble functions as a laboratory ensemble, promoting artistic experimentation and compositional ventures that otherwise may be forgone. For more information about the Chapel Hill Contemporary Music Ensemble, visit [www.ChapelHillCME.org](http://www.ChapelHillCME.org).

Richard Drehoff Jr. serves as the Director of the Chapel Hill Contemporary Music Ensemble. His involvement as a pianist and conductor for CHCME will be instrumental to the success of a collaborative project with the Duke New Music Ensemble. A recent graduate of UNC’s music department with a focus in conducting and composition, he conceptualized the ensemble in fall of 2012, organizing its first concert in spring of 2013. Mr. Drehoff currently works closely with the composition students and faculty at UNC to organize rehearsals, programs, and workshops conducive to the development of the program and the compositional process itself. In addition, he works actively to promote the ensemble to the community, providing free concerts and exposing musicians and non-musicians alike to the current trends in modern classical music.

The Duke New Music Ensemble [dnme] brings together undergraduate and graduate students in performing music written in the 20th and 21st centuries, as well as new works by Duke University student composers. In addition, [dnme] also collaborates regularly with faculty and guest artists from the Duke University’s Department of Music and other institutions across North Carolina. The majority of the performers and composers are graduate students at Duke University. For more information about [dnme], visit [http://music.duke.edu/ensembles/new-music-ensemble](http://music.duke.edu/ensembles/new-music-ensemble).

The combined collaborative ensemble will contain upwards of 60 individuals, all with the goal of bringing new music to the forefront of our communities. These individuals perform regularly in the community and with ensembles based at both universities. The majority of the students currently study or have studied with some of the top professionals in the area for composition, conducting, and instrumental performance.

**VII. Expected products and presentations:**

The combined ensemble will perform 3 concerts: one on UNC’s campus, one on Duke University’s campus, and another at a local music venue, helping us interact with a more diverse portion of the community. The goal with each of these free
concerts is to reach out to a wide audience of students and community members and further explore the trends of modern classical music.

All concerts will be professionally recorded to produce high-quality audio and video archives. A copy of these recordings will be provided to the libraries of each university, as well as the Kenan-Biddle Partnership for archival purposes. All concerts will also be live-streamed online to allow audiences from around the world to tune-in and participate in the performances.

We hope that this grant will spark many more projects between the music programs of UNC and Duke University. We hope and expect that these projects could expand to include the other branches of the fine arts departments at each university, promoting both inter-institutional and inter-departmental collaboration in future semesters.

VIII. Detailed budget plan:

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Richard Drehoff Jr.
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Education

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Bachelor of Music with a second major in Mathematics, May 2013
Highest Honors and Distinction

Performance Experience
Conducting Experience
Chapel Hill Contemporary Music Ensemble, Chapel Hill, NC 11/2012 - Present
- Founded a large chamber ensemble, which works actively with composition students to bring new works to life.
- Pioneered the use of live-stream technology during live-concerts, incorporating online concert programs, multiple cameras, and binaural recording.

Spellbound!, Chapel Hill, NC 3/2012 - 4/2012
- Conducted and rehearsed the premiere performance of Benjamin W. Boecker's musical "Spellbound!"
- 90-minute one-act musical involving vocals, rhythm section, and selected solo instruments.

Frank W. Cox High School, Virginia Beach, VA 9/2008 - 6/2009
- Served as student conductor, conducting the school's symphonic band in concert settings and leading rehearsals.

Composition Experience
Cleat Its Radiance Shine - for flute and piano 5/12/2013
Cleat Its Radiance Shine - for flute and piano (world premiere) 4/28/2013
Effervescent Widgets - for wind ensemble (world premiere) 4/7/2013

Composition Commissions
Cleat Its Radiance Shine, flute and piano
- Commissioned by Philip Snyder, V, flute, for his senior recital.

(untitled - work in progress), alto saxophone and piano
- Commissioned by Prof. Matthew D. McClure

(untitled - work in progress), brass quintet
- Commissioned by the Alpha Rho Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity for their 2014 American Music Recital.

Large Ensemble Experience
UNC Lab Orchestra, Vincent L. Povazsay 8/2013 - Present
- Performed in concert settings as a pianist and organist for the student-conducted orchestra.

- Performed in concert settings as principal pianist and bass clarinetist.
- Performed for the State Convention of the North Carolina Music Educators Association (11/2011).
- Performed for the National Convention of the College Band Directors National Association (2/2012).

Piano Solo and Chamber
Vox Balaenae, George Crumb (UNC Student Recital) 4/2013
Currents, Ash Stelmke (UNC Student Recital) 2/2013
Liebstraus No. 2 in E major, Franz Liszt (UNC Departmental Recital) 4/2011
Three Preludes for Piano, George Gershwin (American Music Recital) 4/2010
Relevant Work Experience

**UNC Bands** Chapel Hill, NC  
Professional Staff 8/2013 - Present
- Instructed flutes and clarinets of the UNC Marching Tar Heels on a regular basis, working to expand and develop musical ideas.

**Damascus Congregation Church** Chapel Hill, NC  
Director of Music 4/2012 - Present
- Served as the pianist and choir director for Sunday worship.
- Conducted weekly rehearsals for the choir of individuals with a variety of musical backgrounds.
- Performed for ceremomial services unrelated to Sunday worship.

Mentorships

**Conducting**  
Dr. Evan Feldman 8/2011 - 1/2013

**Composition**  
Dr. Stephen Anderson 1/2012 - 5/2013

**Ear Training / Theory**  
Dr. Severine Neff 1/2010 - 5/2013

**Piano (Classical and Jazz)**  
Dr. Thomas Otten, Piano Chair 8/2009 - 10/2011

Leadership Experience

**Marching Tar Heels**  
Drum Major 1/2012 - 4/2013
- Responsible for increasing productivity during rehearsal settings via effective teaching skills, commitment, and reliability.

- Motivated incoming first-year students in the Marching Tar Heels and assisted with their transition into a collegiate setting.
- Communicated with new students to answer questions about performance and rehearsal situations and about the organization itself.

**Undergraduate Music Forum**  
- Served as a liaison between undergraduate students and professors involved in the University of North Carolina's Department of Music.
- Collaborated with other undergraduate students to evaluate potential candidates for professorship.

**Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity**  
Director of Music 8/2010 - 8/2012
- Directed a group of non-musicans to form the Barbershop Quartet Ensemble of the Alpha Rho chapter. The ensemble has performed at a variety of fraternity and public events over the past two years.
- Spearheaded the development of an annual benefit concert for Operation Christmas Child, raising significant donations for the Samaritan Purse organization and fostering brotherhood amongst the five music fraternal organizations associated with the University.

Honors & Awards

Thelma Thompson Award in Composition for "effervescent widgets" (2013)
Earl Slocum Band Award (2013)
Order of the Golden Fleece (2012)
## Education

**University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill**  
**Chapel Hill, NC**  
*Bachelor of Music, and Bachelor of Arts in Peace, War & Defense*  
*September 2010 – May 2014*  
- Received Certificate of Business Essentials from UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School

## Experience

**North Carolina Symphony**  
**Raleigh, NC**  
*Department of Philanthropy Intern*  
*Fall, 2013*  
- Assisted with organizing donor account system  
- Helped coordinate and plan donor events

**Charles Mo & Company**  
**Shanghai, China**  
*Corporate Consulting Intern*  
*Summer, 2013*  
- Revamped client programs and relationships  
- Prepared research paper and presentation analyzing the firm's business with several clients

**UBS Financial Services Inc.**  
**New York, NY**  
*Regional Institutional Sales Intern*  
*Summer 2012*  
- Assisted Fixed Income desk in updating and verifying client account information  
- Helped Sales Team maintain and document client relationships  
- Organized and compiled client portfolio information for client presentations  
- Assessed and compiled information on various fixed income securities for Regional Institutional Sales group

**Leahy and Johnson, P.C.**  
**New York, NY**  
*Executive Assistant*  
*Summers 2010 & 2011*  
- Managed and organized all case files  
- Updated and organized client billing system  
- Delivered legal documents to courts, clients, and law firms

## Leadership and Activities

**The Daily Tar Heel**  
*UNC School Newspaper--Arts Writer*  
- Over 17,000 in circulation daily  
- Contributed weekly articles on arts events throughout campus  
- Brought increased coverage to on-campus music events

**Phi Mu Alpha**  
*Social Director*  
- Solely responsible for coordinating a semi-annual "Battle of the Bands" fundraiser. Money earned from the fundraiser was used to start the "Phi Mu Alpha Advancing Music in America Scholarship," which will be offered through the UNC Music Department for the next ten years  
- Received national recognition in fraternity newsletter for success as social director  
- Worked with other Greek organizations to coordinate community outreach programs and events

**UNC-Chapel Hill Kite Flying Club**  
*President & Co-Founder*  
- Organized various community outreach programs, including events with the Ackland Art Museum and the UNC Pakistani Student Association  
- Secured sponsorships from several kite companies

## Additional Information

Recipient of Sidney M. Dowd Music Performance Scholarship at UNC Chapel Hill  
Served as Master Bell Ringer of UNC's Morehead-Patterson Bell Tower in 2013-2014 school year  
Proficient with Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint