

# HB Compose Yourself! Project

**Saturday, February 28, 2026 | 1:00 - 5:00 pm**

Each year, the Hoff-Barthelson Composition Master Class invites young composers to step into the spotlight. Directed by Dr. Derek Cooper in partnership with Copland House, this highlight of the season offers students an extraordinary opportunity to present their original works and receive thoughtful, professional feedback from celebrated, award-winning composers through the HB Compose Yourself! Project.



**Haralabos Stafylakis**

COMPOSER

Haralabos (Harry) Stafylakis is a New York City-based, JUNO-nominated composer from Montreal whose music blends classical tradition with the intensity of heavy metal. Critics have described his work as "dreamy yet rhythmic" (*The New York Times*) and "ferociously expressive" (*Times Colonist*), marked by visceral energy and bold harmonic language. He is composer-in-residence with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and co-curator of the Winnipeg New Music Festival. Stafylakis has collaborated with leading classical and metal artists and ensembles worldwide. His album *Calibrating Friction* (New Amsterdam Records) received a 2024 JUNO nomination, alongside major honors from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, ASCAP, and SOCAN.



**Max Gafe**

COMPOSER

Max Gafe is a composer whose music harnesses modernist vocabularies to create striking dramatic and narrative impact. Described by *Gramophone* as featuring "jagged declamations and muffled filigree," his works have been commissioned by ensembles including the New York Philharmonic and presented at festivals such as Tanglewood and RED NOTE. Gafe is a founding member of ICEBERG New Music and his compositions appear on recordings by major ensembles and soloists. He has received numerous honors from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, BMI, and ASCAP. Gafe teaches at Montclair State University and the Kaufman Music Center and is Composer in Residence at Kinhaven Music School.

**HOFF-BARTHELSON**  
**MUSIC SCHOOL**

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