

Jennifer Koh's Ambitious Commissioning Project Bears Fruit

By Taylor Grant, *Musical America*
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In late March, acclaimed violinist Jennifer Koh inaugurated *Alone Together*, an online commissioning project. With support from Koh's artist-driven nonprofit ARCO Collaborative, 21 composers, most of whom occupy salaried positions, will donate a new 30-second micro-work for solo violin. At the same time, they will recommend a freelance composer to write their own 30-second solo violin work for a commission fee of \$500 (the standard commission rate is \$1,000 per minute).

When asked about her motivation, Koh told [The Washington Post](#). "I thought, I could spend this period of time being scared, curled up in a ball in the corner of the apartment....Or I could spend this

time and try to help as many people as I can."

"Of course, there are things like relief funds," she continued. "But for me I wanted to offer . . . these younger composers a space to do what they love to do and what they've dedicated their lives to doing."

Koh is donating her premiere performances and, in the future, will perform works from *Alone Together* as often as possible to ensure the composers receive visibility and royalty payments.

The first of the performances kicked off on Saturday, April 4 via Instagram TV (@jenniferkohmusic) and Facebook Live (/jenniferkohviolin). Performances are subsequently available on demand via YouTube (/jenniferkohviolin).

The series continues each week on Saturday evening, and will be accompanied by related content—insights from each composer, behind-the-scenes rehearsal footage, and each musical score posted on social media—throughout the week.

The next scheduled performance, on April 18, features: *Urman*, by Adeliia Faizullina; *There had been signs, surely*, by Nina Young; *Quiet City*, by Inti Figgis-Vizueta; *The River In My Mind*, by Jen Shyu; *Nocturno Lamarque*, by Tomás Gueglio Saccone; and *Springs Eternal*, by Anthony Cheung. A complete list of the pairings of composers can be found [here](#).

Jennifer Koh was Musical America's [2016 Instrumentalist of the Year](#).

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