



Harmonium's 27th Annual NJ High School Choral Composition Contest

CONDITIONS & DEADLINES

All entries must be submitted as a pdf by March 18, 2024.

Register and submit your music HERE: <https://forms.gle/nG4G8tDTnyoPNHGdA>

Sponsors must also register HERE: <https://forms.gle/UmZ8g21oHTFNP8JW8>

By signing the consent on the above registration form, you give Harmonium Choral Society permission to stream your music on our streaming channels, including YouTube.

1. The contest is open to any New Jersey high school or home-schooled student including, with the anonymity safeguards, friends or relatives of Harmonium members.
2. Your work must be a newly composed piece set for mixed chorus [SATB]. Arrangements of pre-existing compositions (e.g., hymns, carols, show tunes, etc.) will not be considered. Plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable and will disqualify you.
3. Each entry must use one of the text options found under "Contest Poems."
4. Handwritten scores are acceptable but must be neat and easy to read. Free software is available to notate and print your composition.
 - [Finale Notepad | Free Music Notation Software for Windows \(finalemusic.com\)](https://www.finalemusic.com/)
 - [Music | Noteflight](https://www.musicnoteflight.com/)
 - [Free music composition and notation software | MuseScore](https://www.musescore.com/)
5. While accompaniment is not required, please score a piano reduction of your composition for rehearsal.
6. Performance time of the choral work must be five minutes or less. Longer works will not be considered.
7. Multiple entries by the same composer are permitted. Each entry must be documented, numbered, and submitted separately.
8. Have your music teacher or an adult sponsor submit a SPONSOR form for each entry at the above link.
9. Please include a short biography and a high-resolution photograph or headshot that is appropriate to share with the public as the winner.
10. Do not include your name anywhere on your composition submission to ensure anonymous judging.

11. Students who submit their pieces by March 18, 2024 will receive written feedback from composer-in-residence Martin Sedek, and the opportunity to revise their piece before the final deadline.

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. The judges will not be given any information about the contestants. Each submission will be assigned a number and identities will not be revealed until the winners are chosen.
2. Judges will provide written feedback on each submission.
3. Compositions will be judged on the basis of:
 - a. Harmony
 - b. Rhythm
 - c. Counterpoint and/or voice leading.
 - d. Form
 - e. Integration with text
 - f. Legibility of the score
 - g. Sing-ability: appropriate vocal ranges, avoiding harmonic shifts that are difficult for singers to produce.
 - h. Appropriate piano accompaniment (where applicable)
 - i. Uniqueness and originality
 - j. Perceived audience appeal