

## Guidelines for 2011-2012 Student Choral Composition Contest

Harmonium, A Classical Choral Society, is pleased to announce its Fifteenth Annual New Jersey High School Student Choral Composition Contest. This contest is open to all students enrolled in grades nine through twelve in any public or private school in the State of New Jersey and to all students who are legal residents of New Jersey participating in home schooling at the high-school level. A panel of judges consisting of professional musicians, composers, and music educators will select the winning compositions. The Grand Prize-winning composition will be performed and recorded live at Harmonium's spring concerts on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 at Grace Episcopal Church in Madison, New Jersey.

### Conditions:

- All submissions must be postmarked no later than **March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. No exceptions will be made. In addition to the composition and completed entry forms, each contestant must submit a brief biography and a photograph for publicity purposes; all biographies and photographs will be held by the contest coordinator until judging is completed.
- Also by **March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**, a Sponsor Form must be submitted. The sponsor pledges to have reviewed the final composition, attesting to its originality. In many cases, the sponsor will be a music teacher or choral director, but you are not limited to those titles.
- Upon receipt of a composition, the contest coordinator will assign it a number that will be used to identify the composition during the judging process. The judges will not be given the name, gender, or any other information about the contestants until after the judging has been completed. Due to the assurances of anonymity, the contest is open to any New Jersey high school student, including friends or relatives of Harmonium members.
- Entries must be a newly composed piece set for mixed chorus [SATB] with or without piano accompaniment. Arrangements of pre-existing compositions (e.g., hymns, carols, show tunes, etc.) will not be considered. Pieces without accompaniment must be scored with a piano reduction for rehearsal.
- **Performance time of the choral work is to be five minutes or less. Works of greater length will not be considered.**
- Six choices of text are provided. **All entries must set one of these six texts; no exceptions will be made.** It is not required to set the entire text of a poem; one verse or several lines is enough. Although the music is of prime interest, artistry in setting the text will also be evaluated. **All texts are available at <http://www.harmonium.org/contest.html>.**
- Multiple entries by the same composer are permitted, though each must be submitted, documented, and numbered as a separate entity. Only one registration form is required per contestant, but please indicate on that form the number of entries you intend to submit (if known).
- Composers are encouraged to submit a brief background statement about their work and any performance notes that they would care to make.

- Compositions will be judged on the basis of:
  - Harmony
  - Rhythm
  - Counterpoint and/or voice leading
  - Form
  - Integration with text
  - Score legibility
  - Singability: appropriate vocal range for each voice part, avoidance of harmonic shifts that will be difficult for singers to produce
  - Appropriate piano accompaniment (where applicable)
  - Uniqueness and originality
  - Perceived audience appeal
- It is to your great advantage to submit an easily readable, preferably typeset score (there are several computer software programs available to do this - check with your music department to see if one is available).
- Please submit two copies of your composition, in portrait orientation, on 8 1/2" x 11" single-sided paper. The first will be photocopied and sent to the judges. This copy should be submitted with only your identification number written on it so that the judges will not be able to identify the composer. The second copy will be retained for our records and should have authorship clearly labeled, should be signed by you, and should be marked "for Contest Archives." Harmonium encourages composers to secure copyright to their work and to so mark the archival copy, but not the copy submitted for judging purposes.
- In consideration for the rewards listed below, contestants grant Harmonium exclusive performance rights through June 30, 2011 and non-exclusive performance rights from July 1, 2011 through June 30th, 2016.
- Also in consideration for the rewards listed below, contestants grant Harmonium the following non-exclusive rights through June 30th, 2016:
  - permission to photocopy the manuscript for the use of judges, performers, and workshop attendees
  - permission to make audio and video recordings of compositions
  - mechanical duplication and synchronization rights (i.e. the right to reproduce and sell copies of audio and video recordings) for up to 2000 copies of each submitted work
  - broadcast rights for radio and television performances of compositions
  - permission to post audio and video recordings of compositions on the Internet, which will be available for download.
- The decision of the judges is final.

### **Rewards:**

- The Grand Prize winner will be recognized and his or her composition will be performed at Harmonium's concerts on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.
- Free tickets to this concert will be provided for the winning composer's immediate family and sponsoring teacher. The winning composer will be the subject of an article in the Harmonium newsletter that is mailed to more than one thousand patrons throughout the state. Press releases announcing the winners will be sent to publications of the American Choral Directors Association and local newspapers.
- An audio recording of this performance will be given to the winning composer.

- A cash prize of \$1000 will be presented to the Grand Prize winner. Another cash prize of \$250 will be awarded to a Runner-Up.
- The adult sponsor of the winning student will receive \$100 and the adult sponsor of the runner-up will receive \$50. This is in recognition of the vital role sponsors play in insuring the integrity of the competition and in promoting the aims of the contest.
- The Grand Prize winner and Runner-Up will be notified in late March or early April, 2012. During the period between the notification and the June performances, the student composer will be given the option of refining his or her composition based on feedback from judges and singers.
- Every student who submits a manuscript will receive a written critique of his/her work by the judging panel.
- Harmonium reserves the right not to award any prizes if none of the entries is of good enough quality to be performed in concert.

To download a Registration Form or additional contest materials, please access the web page <http://www.harmonium.org/contest.html> or contact the entry coordinator, Marty Sedek, at [ccc@harmonium.org](mailto:ccc@harmonium.org). Submit all correspondence and manuscripts to:

Harmonium Composition Contest  
P.O. Box 1317  
Morristown, NJ 07962-1317

**Important Dates:**

- March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012: Deadline for Postmark of Submissions, including Registration Form, Sponsor Form, and composition -- please plan ahead!
- Late March/Early April, 2012: Notification of top prize winners
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011: Public performance of Grand Prize-winning Composition at Harmonium's Concerts in Madison, NJ