



## ✧ ✧ ABOUT ✧ ✧

**SEA OF STARS** (or sometimes we just call ourselves **Gents of HSR**) is an unofficial, fan-made zine featuring the male characters for the highly popular game, Honkai: Star Rail by miHoyo/HoyoVerse! The zine is open to all playable characters, NPCs, villains and other male characters as long as they have officially been announced or appeared in the game. While the zine's focus is on the male characters, female characters are allowed to play cameo roles in the pieces. Pom-pom is welcome too!

The project will have one main physical zine with accompanying merch items, and also a free digital PDF zine. Contributors for the main zine will be chosen through an application process, while the free PDF zine is open to all trailblazers to participate!

This is a general, safe for work (SFW), non-ship focused fanzine project set in canonverse. Both main and side zines will not accept 18+ content and AU pitches.

AI submissions are strictly prohibited. Any submissions proved to be done by AI will be removed from the project and the contributor blacklisted.

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## ✧ ✧ ZINE SPECS - MAIN ZINE ✧ ✧

- A5 (300 dpi with bleed) - template will be provided on Discord
- Perfect bound
- Full colour
- 100 lb text interior, 110 lb or 130 lb cover
- 100+ pages (TBC)
- There will also be a PDF version at 150 dpi

## ✧ ✧ ZINE SPECS - SIDE ZINE ✧ ✧

- A5 (150 dpi min no bleed required)
  - Full colour
  - Final PDF version at 150 dpi will be released for free download
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## ✧ ✧ SCHEDULE ✧ ✧

Here is the estimated schedule. Please note this is subject to change but hopefully not too far off.

2024-09-08 - Interest check opens

2024-10-11 - Interest check closes

2024-11-16 - Interest check results

2024-11-24 - Main Zine Applications open/Side Zine Signups open

2025-01-31 - Main Zine Applications close

2025-02-14 - Main Zine Application results

2025-02-28: Side Zine Signups close

2025-03-15 - Main Zine Check in 1 (30%)

2025-03-31 - Side Zine Check in 1 (30%)

2025-04-15 - Main Zine Check in 2 (60%)

2025-04-30 - Side Zine Check in 2 (60%)

2025-05-15: Main Zine Check in 3 (90%)

2025-05-31 - Side Zine Check in 3 (90%)

2025-06-10 - Main Zine Final deadline

2025-06-30 - Side Zine Final Deadline

2025-07-12 - Main Zine Preorders open

2025-08-10 - Side Zine Release

Main zine only - Please note we will let you know which pitch you are working on when you get the acceptance email, so there will not be a concept check. Pitches will be required during application (refer to the Application Guidelines below).

Main zine only - Changing your pitches or characters after acceptance may not be possible unless another contributor exchanges characters with you or you choose a character no one has already been assigned.

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## ✧ ✧ CHECK-INS ✧ ✧

There will be three check-ins before final submission, with a duration of 1 month between each check in. Check-ins are a way to let the mods know that you are working on your pieces. Expected completion at each check in is as follows. We recommend having more done earlier to avoid rushing at the end!

### **Check in 1 (~30%)**

Artists: Concept sketch / rough draft

Writers: Draft outline / main story idea written down

### **Check in 2 (~60%)**

Artists: Lineart completed and started colouring, or for those with painting style, base colours done.

Writers: Draft of story completed before any editing / revisions

### **Check in 3 (~90-100%)**

Artists: Close to complete. Preferably have all colouring done, pending last edits, lighting, filters, etc.

Writers: Close to complete. Ready for final beta. (Please note you can request for beta read before this deadline.)

### **Final Deadline**

Pens down. We will start preparations for preorders on this date. This is a strict deadline, especially for merch artists since we will need your artwork for preorder graphics.

We understand that we all have stuff to do outside of zine projects, so if you need an extension for the check ins, please let one of our mods know! Extensions are usually okay during the creation phase as long as you let us know.

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## ✧ ✧ CONTRIBUTORS - MAIN ZINE ✧ ✧

We will be looking for approximately 35-40 artists, 5-6 merch artists, and 7-8 writers (guests included in these numbers).

*The following number of pieces are just a rough idea. Final pieces for each will be determined based on application pitches.*

ART:

- Character focus piece: max 2 per character
- Region focused group piece: at least 2 per region (Belobog/Xianzhou/Penacony/General - include Amorpheus)
- Mixed region/group piece: at least 2

## WRITING:

- Character focus piece: max 1 per region
- Group focus piece: at least 1 per region
- Mixed region/group piece:: 1-2 pieces

Note: If it is a pitch of a group of characters from one region together with the Astral Express members, it is considered to be a region piece.

Artists are expected to submit one zine piece. Spreads (2 pages) are welcome, but they are limited and priority will be given to group pieces. The piece will need to have a background. Simple backgrounds are fine, but we do not accept white, plain-coloured, or simple gradient-coloured backgrounds.

Writers are expected to submit one written piece (~2-2.5k). Writers will be provided 7-8 pages per written piece for now (we will be doing the page layout so you only need to submit the words).

Merch artists are expected to submit 2-3 merch art pieces.

All work submitted to the zine must be newly created for the zine. Reuse of old works is not permitted.

Accepted contributors will be invited to a Discord server for any discussions and info sharing about the zine. All communication will be done on Discord unless we cannot reach you, in which case we may spam your email/socials. You do not need to have a Discord account during application but will need one after being accepted.

## ✧ ✧ CONTRIBUTORS - SIDE ZINE ✧ ✧

There is currently no limit to the number of contributors in the side zine unless many people want to join and the group gets too large for two mods to handle. Contributors in the main zine can also sign up for the side zine if you want! There will be no guests and no merch for the side zine.

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## ✧ ✧ MERCH ✧ ✧

Please note female characters will be excluded from merch items.

The preliminary idea for merch lineup include the following but is subject to change based on interest check:

- Acrylic charm
- Mini print
- Sticker sheet
- Acrylic stand
- Other higher bundle and special merch items in planning

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## ✧ ✧ CHARACTERS ✧ ✧

Our focus is on playable and non-playable male characters that have appeared in the game or will be released (officially announced) by the time applications close. Those who are officially announced during creation period are okay to be included too (just confirm with a mod beforehand!). Including female characters is okay as long as they only play minor roles. Please also note this zine is SFW, canon (no AUs, no OCs), and ship-free.

We will be having character-focused pieces as well as group pieces. There is a limit on character-focused pieces in order to have more equal representation of everyone, but there is no cap for group pieces (defined as having 3 or more major characters in the piece).

The following characters are currently okay to apply for:

*If you wish to pitch for any other characters, please feel free to send us a DM on Twitter or indicate it on the Interest Check/Application form.*

- Caelus
  - Dan Heng
  - Welt
  - Arlan
  - Gepard
  - Luka
  - Jing Yuan
  - Dan Heng Imbibitor Lunae
  - Yanqing
  - Jiaoqiu
  - Moze
  - Luocha
  - Blade
  - Argenti
  - Dr. Ratio
  - Aventurine
  - Sampo
  - Sunday
  - Gallagher
  - Misha
  - Boothill
  - Anaxa
  - Phainon
  - Mydei
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## ✧ ✧ CREDITS ✧ ✧

Contributors own the copyright to their work. We do not take away your rights by printing your work in the zine. Contributors can sell their work as they wish after this project.

All contributors will be credited inside the zine with their pieces.

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## ✧ ✧ COMPENSATION - MAIN ZINE ✧ ✧

Our goal is to compensate every contributor with a free copy of the zine and merch. However, we will start with a guaranteed PDF copy of the zine and split profits. Further compensation will be based on how well preorders go.

Please note that if we are splitting profits, earnings will be sent by PayPal. Minors that are younger than 18 years old at the time of compensation (estimated to be mid to late 2026) will not receive monetary compensation. You will still get the free zine and merch if we make enough to cover those. Please also note that you will need to provide a mailing address if we are sending out free copies. If you do not wish to disclose your address, it is okay to opt out.

## ✧ ✧ COMPENSATION - SIDE ZINE ✧ ✧

Side zine contributors will not receive physical or monetary compensation.

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## ✧ ✧ POLICY REGARDING AI ART/WRITING ✧ ✧

AI art and writing are strictly prohibited in this project. All creations submitted for contributor applications and the zine project shall be generated by an artist/writer and not by computer algorithm and prompts. If any applicant is found to submit AI creations for their application, they will not be accepted into the project and will be banned from any future projects by our mod team.

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## ✧ ✧ MAIN ZINE APPLICATION GUIDELINES - GENERAL ✧ ✧

Applicants are free to apply to more than one position, but you may only be accepted for one position depending on the total number of applicants.

Previous zine experience is not required to apply for this project.

Acceptance criteria will mainly be based on your portfolio and pitches.

Number of followers on your social media account(s) will have no impact on your application.

As much as we would like to accept everyone who applies, there are limited spots and not getting into the zine is in no way indicative of your skills. Please do not be discouraged if you do not get in!

As per the previous volume, our tiny mod team will not be providing feedback to applications.

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## ✧ ✧ MAIN ZINE PAGE ARTIST GUIDELINES ✧ ✧

Please provide a link to your portfolio.

There is no limit on the number of pieces you can put in your portfolio. However we would like to see samples of the style you are planning to use if you are accepted into the zine.

At least **one** Honkai: Star Rail piece is mandatory in your samples. Other samples can be from anything.

Sample pieces should be SFW. Ship pieces are okay for the samples.

Having backgrounds in your samples will help with your application compared to pieces with none or plain-coloured backgrounds.

Portfolios can be in the form of a Google folder, art portfolio site (such as DeviantArt or ArtStation), or social media site (such as Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram). If you are submitting a social media link, please ensure that it is linked to the correct tag. We will not be scrolling through your posts to find your work.

Please check that your links are working and your portfolios are not locked before submitting; you will be disqualified if we cannot access your samples!

You will be asked for a minimum of 3 pitches (i.e. ideas of what you are planning to draw if you are accepted) and up to a maximum of 5 pitches during application. The pitches will need to indicate the character(s) you plan to draw and the idea - there will be a note on the application form to remind you.

It is okay to have female characters as cameos in your pieces, but the focus must be on the male characters.

It is okay to have chibi characters in your samples, but the piece you contribute to the zine if you are accepted as a page artist will be non-chibi.

Please choose the "Artist Application Form" when apps are open!

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## ✧ ✧ MAIN ZINE WRITER GUIDELINES ✧ ✧

Please provide link(s) to **three sample pieces** of approx. 2-2.5K each. The word count is just a rough guide as this will show the mods your ability to write within the same word count as the final zine piece.

Samples may be NSFW; please provide content warnings as needed.

Reminder that we would like to see samples of the style you are planning to use if you are accepted into the zine.

You may provide a link to a more extensive portfolio as well, but we will be looking mainly at the three sample pieces.

At least **one** Honkai: Star Rail piece is mandatory, though there are no limits on the characters, universe, etc. depicted.

Portfolios can be in the form of a Google folder, writing site (such as AO3), or social media site (such as Twitter, Tumblr, etc). If you are submitting a social media link, please ensure that it is linked to the correct tag. We will not be scrolling through your posts to find your work.

Please check that your links are working and your portfolios are not locked before submitting; you will be disqualified if we cannot access your samples!

You will be asked for a minimum of 3 pitches (i.e. ideas of what you are planning to write if you are accepted) and up to a maximum of 5 pitches during application. The pitches will need to indicate the character(s) you plan to write and the idea - there will be a note on the application form to remind you.

It is okay to have female characters as cameos in your pieces, but the focus must be on the male characters.

Please choose the "Writer Application Form" when apps are open!

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## ✧ ✧ MAIN ZINE MERCH ARTIST GUIDELINES ✧ ✧

Please provide a link to your portfolio.

There is no limit on the number of pieces you can put in your portfolio. However we would like to see samples of the style you are planning to use if you are accepted into the zine.

At least **one** Honkai: Star Rail piece is mandatory in your samples. Other samples can be from anything.

Sample pieces should be SFW. Ship pieces are okay for the samples.

Backgrounds are not required in your samples, but if you are applying to draw the print, backgrounds will help with your application.

Chibi character samples are welcome.

Portfolios can be in the form of a Google folder, art portfolio site (such as DeviantArt or ArtStation), or social media site (such as Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram). You can also submit a link to your store. If you are submitting a social media link, please ensure that it is linked to the correct tag. We will not be scrolling through your posts to find your work.



Please check that your links are working and your portfolios are not locked before submitting; you will be disqualified if we cannot access your samples!

You will be asked for a minimum of 1 pitch (i.e. ideas of what you are planning to draw if you are accepted) for every merch item you are interested in drawing during application. You will need to choose a minimum of three pieces of merch. The pitches will need to indicate the character(s) you plan to draw and the idea - there will be a note on the application form to remind you.

Please also note that each merch artist will be contributing to 2-3 merch pieces in the actual zine.

Female characters will be excluded for merch so please do not include them in your pitches.

Please choose the "Merch Artist Application Form" when apps are open!

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## ✧ ✧ CONTACT US ✧ ✧

If you have any further questions or comments, please let us know!

FAQ: <https://gentsofhsr.carrd.co/#faq>

Twitter: [@gentsofhsr](https://twitter.com/gentsofhsr)

Anonymous ask form: [Gents of HSR: Questions/Comments \(google.com\)](https://forms.gle/8vXvXvXvXvXvXvXv)

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