



The Way Through: A Composition Competition in the Time of COVID-19

In Honor of our 20th Anniversary Season

The concert theme for the Missoula Community Chorus's now-truncated spring season was "The Way Through: Songs of Adversity and Resilience." We had no idea that our world would be plunged into a new chapter of adversity in the midst of this season. Given the renewed resonance of this repertoire, Missoula Community Chorus plans to reprise this theme (as soon as it is safe to rehearse and perform again), and would like to complement the repertoire with new music, composed during our current global crisis. Next season will mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Missoula Community Chorus. At this time of uncertainty for artists worldwide, we would like to announce a composition contest, to support and uplift composers, and to celebrate our 20th anniversary, with two \$500 awards for compositions written for the 80-voice SATB Missoula Community Chorus and/or for the 50-voice SSA Women's Ensemble (WE).

The Missoula Community Chorus is a non-auditioned, volunteer, independent community chorus based in Missoula, Montana. We welcome submissions from composers far and near, including those from underrepresented groups in music and composition.

Criteria

The Missoula Community Chorus consists of several ensembles. Applicants may submit compositions in either of two categories:

- 1) Missoula Community Chorus (MCC): 80-voice SATB choir: Divisi acceptable, preferably to SSAATB
- 2) Women's Ensemble (WE): 50-voice SSA Choir: Divisi acceptable, preferably to SSAA

Compositions in either category (MCC or WE) may be accompanied or unaccompanied. Obbligato instruments are welcome.

Applicants may submit multiple entries in either category (MCC or WE). Compositions must be original works composed during the period of March 1-June 30, 2020.

Submissions must never have received performance prior to submission, and if selected, must not be performed until the MCC or WE premiere in the upcoming season.

Text

The choice of text is the composer's own. Subject matter need not relate to adversity, resilience, or COVID-19. Text must be original, public domain, or accompanied by documentation confirming the composer's permission to set it to music and present it in public performance. Text from all languages, traditions, and cultures is welcome.

Length

Compositions should be no more than five minutes in duration.

Format

Score must be submitted as a pdf, 8.5 x 11 inches (width x height), portrait format. No identifying information, including copyright holder, should be printed on the score.

Entry Fee

There is no entry fee for this contest.

Evaluation

A panel comprised of Missoula Community Chorus staff and guest musicians will review all submissions and select up to two compositions to win awards of \$500 each, and may designate additional compositions to be awarded Honorable Mention.

Any compositions that win monetary or Honorable Mention awards will be performed during the 2020-2021 season (or the next season when rehearsal and performance in Missoula become safe and feasible). The premiere date will be announced with at least eight weeks' notice to the selected composers.

The MCC/WE performance of the winning and/or Honorable Mention selections must be world premieres. The performances will be recorded, and composers of the performed selections will receive a copy of the recording, to help promote/publish the composition.

Composers are not required to attend the premieres, and no funds will be provided to facilitate travel to the performance.

Copyrights

The Missoula Community Chorus shall retain unlimited performance and mechanical rights to performances and recordings made by the MCC and/or WE. The composer shall retain all other copyrights to their works.

The decision of the judging panel is final. The Missoula Community Chorus reserves the right to make no award, or to distribute awards as the judging panel sees fit (which may or may not result in one award for an SATB submission and one award for an SSA submission). The Missoula Community Chorus also reserves the right to award as many Honorable Mention distinctions—or none—as it sees fit, according to the judging panel's decision.

Award(s): \$500.00

Submission and Deadline

Applicants should submit a contest entry form using this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfffEz-cdpaO7QhqLr5zBJGM2xVUA4uPODYcYlcGsuxPnadeA/viewform?usp=sf_link and must also send a pdf copy of the score (with no identifying information) via email by June 30, 2020, at 11:59 pm. If submitting more than one score for consideration, composers should upload separate entry forms and send separate emails with scores for each composition.

Please send scores to:

chorusmanager@missoulachorus.org