



New Music 2020: Call for Proposals

Overview

The Cathedral Singers of Christ Church, Oxford (CSCC), seeks to commission up to three anthems to be premiered by the choir in choral services at Christ Church Cathedral. This forms part of a major new music commissioning initiative, supported by the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral.

Composers are invited to submit a composition proposal/plan for an anthem suitable for performance by the choir in one of the following seasons: New Year, Easter, Pentecost.

Successful applicants will be commissioned to write their proposed piece for a fee of £1000. We hope to premiere all new commissions during choral services in the course of 2021/2.

We hope to attract submissions from composers from a wide range of backgrounds, and in doing so support diverse, thoughtful, and singable contemporary repertoire for church choirs.

The deadline for entry is 5pm on 31 August 2020. Please see below for further details, and how to apply.

Further Details

Eligibility – All composers of any age or nationality are eligible to enter, except current members of CSCC and current employees of Christ Church.

The Choir – Further information about the history and make-up of the choir can be found on its website, www.cathedralsingers.org.uk. Scans of selected previous music lists, giving an idea of the choir's repertoire, can be found on the website here: <https://cathedralsingers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CSCC-Representative-Music-List-Samples.pdf>

Commission – Chosen entrants will be commissioned to create a new choral work meeting the parameters detailed below, for a fee of £1000. The payment will be divided into two parts, with one part issued as an advance and the other issued upon satisfactory completion of the work as determined by the choir's Director. Payment will be in UK funds only.

It is intended that the new work(s) will be premiered in a choral service in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, by the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church, in 2021 or soon after. The performance will be recorded and a copy of any such recordings will be furnished to the composer(s).

Parameters – Any works commissioned should be for SATB choir, with or without divisi or solos, with or without organ accompaniment, and suitable for performance by the Cathedral Singers, an amateur, auditioned mixed-voice choir. There is no stipulation on length.

Texts chosen should pertain to the period of the Church's year selected by the applicant from the following three: 1. New Year, 2. Easter, 3. Pentecost. Applicants should select a text appropriate to the chosen season, or may compose a new text. The text used must be out of copyright, or the composer must provide written evidence of the copyright holder's permission to use it.

Application – Applications should consist of an email to conductor@cathedralsingers.org.uk with the following information/attachments:

- 1) Full name and contact details (email, telephone, postal address, website if applicable)
- 2) A short biography
- 3) A proposal for the work you would write. This should include the chosen text, and could include suggestions of mood, structure, and perhaps musical motives, tempo, and any other relevant considerations at your discretion (PDF)
- 4) One or two sample scores of your compositions, dating from the last three years, which you consider to be representative, in PDF format
- 5) Optional – you may additionally submit a link to a recording of your sample works, but this is not required

There is no fee to submit a proposal. Applicants may submit multiple proposals.

Deadline for Submissions – Applications should be submitted no later than 5pm on 31 August 2020.

Review Panel – The applications will be examined by a panel, to include the Director, a current member of the choir, a member of the Cathedral clergy, and one or two professional musicians. The panel will select any successful applications. The panel reserves the right not to award any or all of the commissions. The decision of the panel is final and may not be appealed.

Results – The commissioned composers will be announced. The names of unsuccessful entrants will not be made public and will be held in strict confidence.

We look forward to receiving your application.