

2011 Welcome Christmas Carol Contest

VocalEssence & American Composers Forum
announce the fourteenth annual
Welcome Christmas Carol Contest
for TTBB chorus and English horn

Postmark Deadline: August 5, 2011

The custom of singing Christmas carols brings joy to the holiday season unlike any other tradition. And every December VocalEssence and the American Composers Forum celebrate this tradition in their own unique way: championing today's composers, exploring new works, and rediscovering lesser-known works of the past.

This year marks the fourteenth year of the **Welcome Christmas Carol Contest** as VocalEssence and the American Composers Forum provide composers of all ages with the opportunity to compose a modern-day carol.

Open to composers of all ages, this year's contest requires writing a carol for **TTBB chorus accompanied by English horn**. Each year, the contest has produced wonderful new settings of familiar texts and carols based on existing poems and original texts with different instrumentation.

Each winner will receive a prize of \$1,000, and the winning carols will be premiered at the December 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11, 2011 **Welcome Christmas** concerts featuring the VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers. The performances will be recorded for national broadcast in 2012 via American Public Media. The winners are invited to attend the rehearsals and performances at their own expense, and will have the opportunity for radio interviews as well as other media coverage and promotion.

2011 Contest Guidelines

- World premiere: No prior performance of submitted work.
- Eligibility: Composers of all ages whose permanent residence is North America.
- Form: Carol (defined as a strophic song, which may or may not have refrains, that is associated with Christmas)
- Voicing: TTBB with English horn (no other instruments should be included and PLEASE NOTE: the voicing should be for male chorus, not mixed voices).
- Duration: Maximum of 3 minutes.
- Text: Sacred or secular, medieval to present, appropriate for concert setting; Christmas or seasonal winter themes accepted. Proof of public domain or author's written permission for use of text is required.

Who may apply

- Composers of all ages; experience writing for voice and/or choirs is beneficial.
- Applicants do not need to be members of ACF to apply. However, if selected, the composer is expected to be a member for a one-year period. (For membership information visit www.composersforum.org or call 651/228-1407.)

Submission Requirements

- Signed and completed application form (download from link in the right column)
- One full score including duration
- One copy of English horn part
- A biography not to exceed one page
- Program notes not to exceed one page (optional)
- Document giving permission or status for use of text
- If return of materials is desired, a \$5 check payable to American Composers Forum sufficient to cover the return postage must be included
- Please DO NOT SEND RECORDINGS

Deadline

Postmarked on or before August 5, 2011.

Faxes will not be accepted.

Selection Process

Applications and scores will be screened for completeness by ACF staff. Final selection and programming decisions will be made by VocalEssence Artistic Director Philip Brunelle and Associate Conductor Sigrid Johnson. Note: American Composers Forum and VocalEssence reserve the right not to make an award.

Notification

Composers will be notified by late September 2011.

VocalEssence

Under the artistic direction of founder Philip Brunelle, VocalEssence is a champion of choral music: performing past and present repertoire for voices, commissioning new works from today's composers, and celebrating the human experience through concerts and community engagement. VocalEssence has been recognized by ASCAP with five awards for its adventurous programming of contemporary music and has been honored with the Margaret Hillis Achievement Award for Choral Excellence. The VocalEssence Ensemble Singers are the 32-voice professional chorus of VocalEssence and the core of its 125-voice Chorus.

PAST WINNERS:

2010: Carols with handbell accompaniment

J. David Moore (St. Paul, MN)

Mark Shepperd (Woodbury, MN)

2009: Carols with viola accompaniment

Michael J. Glasgow (Raleigh, NC)

Robert Sieving (Minnetonka, MN)

2008: Carols with French horn accompaniment

Scott Ethier (Astoria, NY)

Peter Hilliard (Roslyn, PA)

2007: Carols with celesta accompaniment

Matthew Brown (Los Angeles, CA)

Stephen Main (San Francisco, CA)

2006: Carols with solo acoustic guitar

Diego Luzuriaga (Ardmore, Pa.)

John Rommereim (Grinnell, Iowa)

2005: Carols with solo 'cello

Paul Gibson (Downey, Calif.)

Jocelyn Hagen (Minneapolis, Minn.)

2004: Carols with solo recorder

Keith Bradshaw (Lexington, Va.)

James Sclater (Clinton, Miss.)

2003: Carols with solo instrumental accompaniment

Thomas Fielding (Bloomington, Ind.)

Alan Higbee (Beechwood, Ohio)

[Read and listen to the National Public Radio's Weekend Edition Sunday coverage of the 2003 Carol Contest.](#)

2002: Carols with percussion accompaniment

Mary Lynn Place Badarak

Paul Lohman

2001: Carols with string orchestra accompaniment

Clive Muncaster

Sergey Khvoshchinsky

2000: Carols with harp accompaniment

Brian Holmes

Emily Maxson Porter

1999: Carols with audience participation

Robert A.M. Ross

Jonathan Santore

1998: Carols for a cappella chorus

Joan Griffith

Richard Voorhaar

For more information about this program contact:

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