



ESSENTIALLY CHORAL CALL FOR SCORES

VocalEssence and the American Composers Forum (ACF) announce a call for scores for the eighth annual **Essentially Choral** reading session. Through this program, **Essentially Choral** seeks creative and innovative works in a wide range of styles and provides a unique opportunity for talented, emerging composers from across the United States.

Up to seven composers will be selected to have their works-in-progress read by the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, a 32-voice professional chorus directed by Philip Brunelle. One of the selected composers may receive a \$3,500 commission to write a new work. The reading sessions will take place April 16-18, 2009 in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota.

Essentially Choral affirms the commitment of VocalEssence and the American Composers Forum to the work of today's composers and the performance of their music. The program is generously supported by a grant from the Jerome Foundation.

DEADLINE

Postmarked on or before January 9, 2009.

UPDATES TO ESSENTIALLY CHORAL

- Favor will be shown to composers who demonstrate potential and are taking a risk with the proposed project. These distinctions are relative, so we ask you to state how this project will advance your career.
- A rehearsal for professional instrumentalists (if applicable to the work) and an additional VocalEssence Ensemble Singers rehearsal have been added to ensure a productive final reading session.
- The number of composers who may be invited to participate in Essentially Choral has been increased from "up to five" to "up to seven."

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

"Essentially Choral was a true workshop experience—I arrived with one piece and left with an even stronger one. Thanks for such a generous program and for such warm hospitality in the Twin Cities!"

"Essentially Choral is an invaluable program for emerging composers. It will no doubt help many composers break into the next section of their careers."

SINGER COMMENTS

"What a great opportunity for composers to witness the rehearsal process of their creations!"

"Essentially Choral gives young and emerging composers a chance to hear their compositions in a setting where work can be made and performed in real-time."

NATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL

*Dr. Anton Armstrong
Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell
Dr. Chen Yi
Fred Ho
Joseph Jennings*

*Dr. Jeffrey S. Kimpton
Dr. Robert Morris
Dr. Carmen Tellez
Dr. James Undercofler*

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DEADLINE JANUARY 9, 2009**

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ESSENTIALLY CHORAL 2009

**A unique opportunity for talented,
emerging composers to write for
voices and instruments**

**APRIL 16-18, 2009
MINNEAPOLIS ST. PAUL
MINNESOTA**



ESSENTIALLY CHORAL 2009

2009 GUIDELINES

- **Performance history: Essentially Choral calls for works-in-progress.** No prior public performance of the work submitted is allowed.
- **Eligibility:** Only emerging composers may apply. "Emerging" composers are at an early stage in their careers, with as-yet little peer recognition, no national reputation (as determined by prior performances and awards), and limited professional opportunities. Individuals enrolled in undergraduate and graduate degree programs are not eligible to participate in **Essentially Choral** with the following exception: If a composer enrolls in an undergraduate or graduate degree program or takes classes while maintaining a current and active professional practice of creating and presenting work to the public, she/he is eligible to apply.
- **Voicing:** SATB, SSAATTBB or variations thereof. Both a cappella works as well as those with instrumental accompaniment of up to five instruments are eligible. Note: Other voicings are accepted but note that there are 32 singers in total.
- **Instrumentation** (optional): Any combination of instruments of up to five players, i.e. woodwind quintet, brass quintet, string quartet, guitar, percussion, harp, keyboard and doublings. Other instruments may be acceptable as well. If orchestration is not yet written, please list the instrumentation and define how you would re-score the work. **Note: If opting for accompaniment, keyboard only is not acceptable.**
- **Duration:** 5-8 minutes. If submitting more than one movement of a larger work, send full score with clear indication of the excerpts you wish to have read in order of preference.
- **Text:** Sacred or secular, medieval to present, ranging from spirituals and early gospel to new and experimental writing styles, appropriate for concert setting. Proof of public domain or author's written permission for use of text is required. (Note: Most modern translations of the Bible are protected by copyright.)
- **ACF membership:** You need not be a member of American Composers Forum to apply. If selected, you must become a member to participate. Membership information is available by calling 651-228-1407 or at www.composersforum.org.

AWARDS & BENEFITS

- \$500 honorarium to defray expenses
- Travel and lodging provided by VocalEssence
- One composer may be awarded \$3,500 commission for premiere by VocalEssence in the 2009–2010 season, either incorporating music read at **Essentially Choral** or a completely new work, at Philip Brunelle's discretion (American Composers Forum and VocalEssence reserve the right not to make the commission award.)
- Mentoring sessions with Philip Brunelle and an established professional composer (composer-mentor)
- Professional development sessions for emerging composers
- Rehearsal with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers; rehearsal session with instrumentalists as needed; reading session with the Ensemble Singers, professional instrumentalists (if applicable to the work) and conductor Philip Brunelle

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit the following:

- Signed and completed application form (Call 651-251-2833 for copy of form or download PDF from www.vocalescence.org > composers > essentially choral)
- For a cappella submissions: 2 copies of score (indicate duration on cover page of score)
- For submissions with instrumental accompaniment: 2 copies of score (indicate duration on cover page of score); 2 copies of chorus parts (with instrumental cues or piano reduction, measure numbers and markings that match those in full score); sample of 1 complete instrumental part; and description of instrumentation (if not included in score)
- A brief statement saying how this reading will advance your career
- Resume/vita
- Self-addressed envelope of adequate size with sufficient postage (if return of materials is requested)
- Please **DO NOT SEND RECORDINGS.**



SELECTION PROCESS

Applications and scores will be screened for completeness by the American Composers Forum staff. VocalEssence Artistic Director Philip Brunelle, VocalEssence Associate Conductor Sigrid Johnson and composer Cary John Franklin will make the final selections. Up to seven composers will be selected for the reading session.

DEADLINE

Postmarked on or before January 9, 2009.
Faxes will not be accepted.

NOTIFICATION

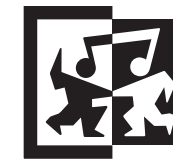
Composers will be notified by February 18, 2009.

SEND TO

Essentially Choral
American Composers Forum
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E145
St. Paul, MN 55101

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Craig Carnahan
Vice President of Programs
American Composers Forum
ccarnahan@composersforum.org
651-251-2833



AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM

The American Composers Forum is committed to supporting composers and developing new markets for their music. Through granting, commissioning, and performance programs, the Forum provides composers at all stages of their careers with valuable resources for professional and artistic development.



VOCALESSENCE

VocalEssence explores the interaction of voices and instruments through innovative programming of music, past and present. VocalEssence has been recognized by ASCAP for its adventurous programming of contemporary music with five awards 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 130-voice Chorus.



PHILIP BRUNELLE

Philip Brunelle founded VocalEssence in 1969. Believing that listeners and musicians alike must experience music of many genres and styles, he has worked enthusiastically—and tirelessly—to expand audiences for rarely heard works of the past and worthwhile new music. He has received honorary doctorates from St. Olaf, Gustavus Adolphus, St.

John's University, and United Theological Seminary as well as many international awards, including Hungary's Kodály Medal, Sweden's Royal Order of the Polar Star, Honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) and Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit. He has been recognized with Minnesota's highest choral honor, the F. Melius Christiansen Award, and Chorus America's most important award, the Michael Korn Founder's Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art.