



AMERICAN
COMPOSERS
FORUM

VocalEssence & American Composers Forum
announce the 21st annual
Welcome Christmas Carol Contest
for SATB Chorus and Oboe

Postmark Deadline: Friday, June 15, 2018

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 twenty-one years of the **Welcome Christmas Carol Contest** as VocalEssence and the American Composers Forum provide composers with the opportunity to compose a modern-day carol.

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

The two winners will each receive a prize of \$1,000. The winning carols will be premiered at the December 1, 7, 8, and 9, 2018 **Welcome Christmas** concerts featuring the VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers. The performances will be recorded for national broadcast in 2019 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.

2018 Contest Guidelines

- World premiere: No prior performance of submitted work.
- Original carol: No arrangements or new settings of existing tunes.
- 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: SATB chorus with oboe (no additional accompanying instruments allowed).
- Duration: 3-4 minutes. **Compositions longer than 4 minutes in length will not be reviewed.**
- 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.

Submission Requirements

- Signed and completed application form
- One full score including duration
- One copy of the oboe 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
- Optional: If you would like your materials returned, please enclose a check (payable to American Composers Forum) in the amount of \$5.00 to cover return postage. **Please do not include stamps or SASEs.**
- Please **DO NOT SEND RECORDINGS.**

Deadline

Postmarked on or before Friday, June 15, 2018.

Submissions sent by fax or email 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 G. Phillip Shoultz, III. Note: American Composers Forum and VocalEssence reserve the right not to make an award.

Notification

Composers will be notified by late July 2018.

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.

For more information about this program contact:

William J. Lackey, Vice President of Programs

wlackey@composersforum.org

2018 Welcome Christmas Carol Contest

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (day): _____

Phone (eve): _____

E-mail: _____

Composition title: _____

Duration (mm:ss) _____

Date completed: _____

I agree to the guidelines and terms of this competition. The work submitted has not received a public performance. Should my work be chosen, I agree to fulfill all requirements as stated in the guidelines and printed materials.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Checklist:

- ☐ Signed and completed application form.
- ☐ One copy of score for SATB Chorus and Oboe (no additional accompanying instruments allowed) including duration.
- ☐ One copy of the oboe part.
- ☐ Proof of public domain or author's written permission for use of text.
- ☐ Biography not to exceed one page.
- ☐ *Optional:* Program note not to exceed one page.
- ☐ *Optional:* \$5.00 check made payable to American Composers Forum for return of your application materials.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND RECORDINGS

Application deadline: Submissions must be postmarked by **June 15, 2018.**

Mail to:
Welcome Christmas Carol Contest
American Composers Forum
75 West 5th Street
Suite 522
St. Paul, MN 55102-1439