



2024 Ruth Watson Henderson Choral Composition Competition

Entry Deadline: February 15, 2024

The Ruth Watson Henderson Choral Composition Competition is a biennial contest for new choral works with categories alternating between pieces for *treble voice choirs* and pieces for *mixed voice adult choirs*. The competition exists to provide Canadian composers with an opportunity of contributing to Canada's rich choral tradition through the writing of original choral works.

The Ruth Watson Henderson Choral Composition Competition is open to any Ontario based Canadian choral composer. The winner will receive:

- The Ruth Watson Henderson award of \$2,000
- A premiere performance by an Ontario Treble Choir during the 2024-2025 season
- The opportunity for performance by Treble Choirs across Ontario during the 2024-2025 season
- A feature article about the composer in Choirs Ontario's provincial choral journal *Dynamic*
- Promotion on Choirs Ontario's website and social media

The winner and honourable mentions are chosen by a Selection Committee of esteemed choral artists from across Ontario and representatives from the Choirs Ontario Board of Directors. Each submission will receive constructive written feedback from one of the members of the committee. The Selection Committee may select and highlight honourable mentions, and extend invitations for their works to be highlighted by Ontario Treble Choirs during the 2024-2025 season.

Competition Regulations

1. The composition must be an original SSA work, 4-6 minutes in length, a capella or piano accompaniment.
**A capella submissions MUST include a piano reduction*
2. Texts may be sacred or secular and can be in languages other than English/French. The text must be either original, known to be in public domain or be accompanied by a letter of permission from the copyright owner.
3. All submissions must not have been previously commissioned, published or performed. Arrangements of previously composed works are not acceptable. The composer shall retain the copyright of the work.
4. Previous competition finalists re-applying must submit a different piece.
5. Multiple entries by a single composer will not be accepted.

Eligibility: To be eligible for the Ruth Watson Henderson Choral Composition Competition, applicants must be a resident of Ontario at the time of submission. Applicants must also be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada. Previous winners of the competition are ineligible to apply.

Judging Criteria

Judging criteria includes but is not limited to:

- Compositional structure
- Harmonic language
- Voice leading
- Text selection and setting
- Piano accompaniment (if applicable)
- General understanding of choral idiom

The Selection committee is seeking a piece composed for performance that could be available and accessible to community choirs and singing groups.

Submission Instructions

1. Entries must be received by email to info@choirsontario.org by **February 15, 2024**.
2. Applicants must send an unmarked PDF of your composition without any identifying markings (such as the composer's name).
 - The PDF must be clean, clear and legible. No handwritten scores will be considered. Graphic scores may be a PDF scan of a written score if applicable.
3. Applicants must provide a cover letter with the following information:
 - Composer's Name
 - Mailing Address
 - Phone Number
 - Email Address
 - Composition Title
 - Text Source

The winner will be notified by email or phone in the Spring of 2024.

For more information, please contact:

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