



2023 Inaugural Adelaide Sacred Music Composition Prize

Supported by the Choir of Pilgrim Church and St Peter's Cathedral Music Foundation

Adelaide is colloquially known as 'the city of churches', and not without good reason. A thriving culture of sacred music walks hand in hand with our beautiful and plentiful sacred spaces. Two of Adelaide's busiest and most experienced choirs are joining together to encourage and support the creation of new music for the choral tradition. Both choirs have a strong presence in Adelaide, have sung internationally, and have played host to many international musicians.

The church has a long history of patronage of the arts; choral music in churches dates back at least 1000 years, and churches of all denominations throughout the world have constantly sought to engage people with new and inspiring music. This energy continues today. The choirs of Pilgrim Church (Uniting) and St. Peter's Cathedral (Anglican) are proud to continue this important tradition.

This project aims to introduce choirs to composers, composers to choirs, and to encourage the composition of sacred music suitable for liturgical use from both experienced composers and younger composers seeking to develop their skills.

Prizes

For the inaugural prize we are offering two categories:

1. An **Open** section, for South Australian composers aged 21 and over

First Prize: \$1500

Second Prize: \$500

2. A **Young Composer** section, for South Australian composers aged under 21 years as of the closing date for submissions.

First Prize: \$750

Second Prize: \$250

Prize monies are provided by the St Peter's Cathedral Music Foundation and the Choir of Pilgrim Church.

The focus for both prizes is on music suitable for worship through the time between Easter and Advent. Often referred to liturgically as 'ordinary time', the texts chosen are suitable for most services, and are not associated with a specific festival such as Christmas or Easter.

Requirements

- Compositions are to be between three and five minutes long
- Compositions must set one of the suggested texts, in entirety
- Compositions will be for an SATB choir
- Occasional divisi (e.g. SSAATTBB) are acceptable, but further divisi are discouraged
- The composition may be a capella, or accompanied by organ (not piano)
- Must be suitable to be performed without extensive rehearsal; most church choirs rehearse a piece once or twice before a service. Extremely difficult works are unlikely to be shortlisted
- The composition must be a new piece, not previously performed or released
- Only one entry is allowed per composer

Process

Submissions must be made in PDF format, to **asmcpsubmissions@gmail.com**. Works typeset in Sibelius/Finale or similar software are preferred, unless your handwritten copy is extremely neat. The competition will not type-set music for you, and if your music is deemed illegible your entry will be rejected.

Submissions will be anonymised and passed on to the adjudication panel; the adjudication panel will not be aware of the names of entrants to the competition.

From entries received, after discussion by the adjudication panel, a shortlist of works will be created. All shortlisted works will be read and rehearsed by one of the two participating choirs, during August and September of 2023. The opportunity will be given for the composer to attend one of these rehearsals, as part of a short workshop session, and to discuss their piece with the conductor. The two choirs will be responsible for printing sufficient copies of the music to enable rehearsal.

The shortlisted works will then be performed in a service during August and September. The shortlisted works will be recorded during these services, and the scores and recordings will be resubmitted to the adjudication panel, and used to determine the winners of the prizes. Shortlisted composers will be able to keep copies of these recordings.

The First Prize winning works will also be performed in a concert given by St Peter's Cathedral Choir in December 2023.

A prize may not be awarded if the entries received are not deemed to be of sufficient standard.

The adjudication panel comprises Anthony Hunt, Director of Music, St Peter's Cathedral, Peter Kelsall, Organist and Choir Director, Pilgrim Uniting Church and Sydney-based organist and composer, David Drury.

Submission Terms/Dates

All submissions must be received no later than **30/06/2023**.

Shortlisting will take place over the following two weeks before providing the pieces to the choirs. All shortlisted applicants will be notified by **31/07/2023**.

Chosen works will be rehearsed at Pilgrim Uniting Church or St. Peter's Cathedral throughout August and September. Prize Winners will be notified by **31/10/2023**.

Submission into this competition confirms that the organising choirs have the right to perform and stream the submitted pieces in services or concert settings. All other rights remain with the composer.

Submissions are to be emailed to **asmcpsubmissions@gmail.com**. Submissions must include

- Completed Entry Form (see page 6)
- PDF file of your submission
- A brief CV

Enquiries can be made to the email address above.

Texts to choose from

Lighten our darkness

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

A collect for Evening Prayer, from The Book of Common Prayer

God, that madest earth and heaven

God, that madest earth and heaven,
darkness and light;
who the day for toil hast given,
for rest the night;
may thine angel-guards defend us,
slumber sweet thy mercy send us,
holy dreams and hopes attend us,
this livelong night.

Guard us waking, guard us sleeping,
and, when we die,
may we in thy mighty keeping
all peaceful lie:
when the last dread call shall wake us,
do not thou our God forsake us,
but to reign in glory take us
with thee on high.

Evening Hymn by Reginald Heber (1827)

Salva nos domine

This text may be set in either Latin, or English (or both):

Salva nos domine vigilantes,
custodi nos dormientes,
ut vigilemus cum Christo,
et requiescamus in pace.

Save us, O Lord, waking,
guard us sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

Antiphon for Compline

The house of the mind

As earth's pageant passes by,
Let reflection turn thine eye
Inward, and observe thy breast;
There alone dwells solid rest.

That's a close immurèd tower
Which can mock all hostile power:
To thyself a tenant be,
And inhabit safe and free.

Say not that this house is small,
Girt up in a narrow wall;
In a cleanly sober mind
Heaven itself full room doth find.

Th' infinite Creator can
Dwell in it, and may not man?
Here content make thy abode
With thyself and with thy God.

Joseph Beaumont (1615-1699)

Evening hymn

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray,
that with thy wonted favour thou
wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
from nightly fears and fantasies;
tread under foot our ghostly foe,
that no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,
through Jesus Christ thine only Son,
who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,
doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

Te lucis ante terminum (Evening Hymn)
Latin, before 11th century
tr. J.M. Neale (1818-1866)

O splendour of God's glory bright

O splendour of God's glory bright,
who bringest forth the light from Light;
O Light, of light the fountain-spring;
O Day, our days illumining;
Come, very Sun of truth and love,
come in thy radiance from above,
and shed the Holy Spirit's ray
on all we think or do to-day.

O joyful be the livelong day,
our thoughts as pure as morning ray,
our faith like noonday's glowing height,
our souls undimmed by shades of night.

*St. Ambrose c. 340-397
tr. compilers of Hymns Ancient and Modern (1904)*

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
and give you peace. Amen

Numbers 6:22-27



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Entry Form

Name: _____

Age as at 30/06/2023: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Residential address: _____

Title of piece: _____

Submissions are to be emailed to **asmcpsubmissions@gmail.com**

Submissions must include

- Completed Entry Form
- PDF file of your submission
- A brief CV

Closing date: 30 June 2023