



Guidelines for 2011-2012 DMVAE Choral Composition Contest

The Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble is pleased to announce its inaugural Choral Composition Contest. This contest consists of two divisions: the Apprentice Division is open to all students enrolled in grades ten through twelve in any public or private school within Polk, Boone, Dallas, Madison, Warren, Marshall, Marion, and Jasper counties. The Scholar Division is open to all undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at any state or private college or university in the state of Iowa. The prize-winning compositions will be performed and recorded live at DMVAE's spring concert on May 20, 2012, at Faith Lutheran Church in Clive, Iowa.

All contest materials are available for download on www.dmvae.org/contest.

The following choral music professionals will serve as judges for both divisions:

- **Dr. Timothy McMillin** (head judge) — Dr. McMillin is a professor of music and the director of choral activities at Simpson College, where he directs three choral ensembles, serves on the voice faculty, teaches classes in conducting, music literature and choral studies, and mentors future choral conductors. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and recently served a five-year term as the Iowa Chapter's Repertoire and Standards Chair for Four-Year Colleges and Universities.
- **Matthew Oltman** — Mr. Oltman is the Music Director Emeritus for the GRAMMY Award-winning men's ensemble, Chanticleer. He has served as guest conductor and clinician for choirs across the country. Oltman is also the editor of a choral series with Hinshaw Music.
- **Dr. David Brunner** — Dr. Brunner is a conductor and composer currently serving as professor of music and director of choral activities at the University of Central Florida. He has received numerous awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and in 2000 was named Raymond W. Brock Commissioned Composer by the ACDA. He has written over 100 works and is published exclusively through Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.
- **Ryan Beeken** — Ryan Beeken directed high school choirs for over 15 years. An Iowa native and graduate of Drake University, Beeken is currently pursuing a D.M.A. in choral conducting from Michigan State University. During his years at Waukee High School, choirs under his direction performed at state, regional, and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA).

Submission Guidelines

- Entries must be newly composed pieces set for mixed chorus with or without piano accompaniment. Voicing should be SATB with no more than eight-part divisi (SSAATTBB). Arrangements of pre-existing compositions (e.g., hymns, carols, show tunes, etc.) will not be considered. Compositions must be original works that have not been published or performed publicly, outside a studio or classroom in an academic forum or workshop setting. Entries may have been previously submitted in other contests, providing that no part of a composition has been a prize-winning entry.
- Pieces without accompaniment must be scored with a piano reduction for rehearsal.
- Performance time of the choral work is to be between two and a half and five minutes in length. Works longer than five minutes will not be considered.
- Composers may use sacred or secular texts of their choosing; if a copyrighted text is used, a letter of permission from the copyright owner must be included with the submission.

- Composers are encouraged to submit a brief background statement about their work and any performance notes that they would care to make.
- It is preferred that composers submit easily readable, preferably typeset scores (there are several computer software programs available to do this—check with your music department to see if one is available).
- Please submit five copies of your composition, in portrait orientation, on 8 1/2" x 11" single-sided paper. Four of those copies will be sent to the judges. **Do not** include anything that would identify yourself as the composer on these copies. The final copy will be retained for our records and should have authorship clearly labeled, should be signed by you, and should be marked “for Contest Archives.” DMVAE encourages composers to secure copyright to their works and to so mark the archival copy, but not the copy submitted for judging purposes.
- In addition to the composition itself, each Apprentice Division contestant will be required to submit a Sponsor Form, in which an individual, not the composer, pledges to have reviewed the final composition and can attest to its originality. In many cases, the sponsor will be a music teacher or choral director, but you are not limited to those titles.

Submit all manuscripts and contest materials **by mail** to: DMVAE – Composition Contest
 PO Box 13379
 Des Moines, IA 50310

Contest Rules and Conditions

- To be considered an official contestant, each student composer must register, signaling his or her intent to participate. Contestants can register any time after August 1, 2011. This can be done in the following ways:
 - Visit www.dmvae.org/contest, click the “Register” link and enter all required information.
 - Send an email to DMVAE at contactus@dmvae.org that includes the contestant’s name, address, school, and grade/year. Please put “Composition Contest” in the subject line.
- Each contestant will be assigned a number that will be used to identify the composition during the adjudication process. The judges will not be given the name, gender, or any other information about the contestants until after the judging has been completed. Due to the assurance of anonymity, the contest is open to any student who falls under the criteria mentioned above, including friends or relatives of DMVAE members.
- All submissions must be received **no later than** February 1, 2012. No exceptions will be made. In addition to the composition and completed entry forms, each contestant is encouraged to submit a brief biography and photograph for publicity purposes (all biographies and photographs will be held by the contest coordinator until judging is completed).
- Compositions will be judged in three general categories: artistic merit, audience suitability, and technical execution. Under those general categories, the following specific aspects of the compositions will be evaluated:
 - Harmony
 - Rhythm
 - Counterpoint and/or voice leading
 - Form
 - Integration with text
 - Score legibility
 - Singability (appropriate vocal range for each voice part, avoidance of harmonic shifts that will be difficult for singers to produce)
 - Appropriate piano accompaniment (where applicable)
 - Uniqueness and originality
 - Perceived audience appeal

- In consideration for the prizes listed below, contestants grant DMVAE exclusive performance rights through June 30, 2012, and the following non-exclusive performance rights from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017:
 - Permission to photocopy the manuscript for the use of judges, performers, and workshop attendees
 - Permission to make audio and video recordings of compositions
 - Mechanical duplication and synchronization rights (i.e. the right to reproduce and sell copies of audio and video recordings) for up to 2,000 copies of each submitted work
 - Broadcast rights for radio and television performances of compositions
 - Permission to post audio and video recordings of compositions on the Internet, which will be available for download.

Important Dates

Submission Deadline — February 1, 2012

Announcement of Winners — March 1, 2012

Performance of Winning Compositions — May 20, 2012

Prizes

- The prize winners in both divisions will be recognized and their compositions will be performed at DMVAE's concert on May 20, 2012.
- Five tickets to this concert will be provided free of charge for the winning composer's immediate family and sponsoring teacher. Actual travel expenses up to \$750 will be reimbursed (travel, lodging, and food) for the winner of the Scholar Division.
- The winning composer will be the subject of an article in DMVAE's newsletter that is mailed out to more than 500 patrons within Greater Des Moines. Press releases announcing the winners will be sent to publications of the American Choral Directors Association and local news organizations.
- An audio recording of this performance will be given to the winning composer.
- The Apprentice Division winner will receive a \$500 cash prize and a \$500 gift to be given to the music program designated by the winning student. The Scholar Division winner will receive a cash prize of \$1,500.
- The prize winners will be notified March 1, 2012. During the period between the notification and the May performance, the student composers will be given the option of refining their compositions based on feedback from judges.
- Every student who submits a manuscript will receive a written critique from the judges of his or her work.
- DMVAE reserves the right not to award any prizes if none of the entries is of good enough quality to be performed in concert.