

THE CHRISTMAS CAROL AND CHANUKAH SONG WRITING COMPETITION

THE AMADEUS CHOIR

The Amadeus Choir is celebrating its 33rd Anniversary season in 2007-2008. The 100 auditioned members of the Choir perform a regular subscription concert series in Toronto presenting well-known artists in works by Canadian and international composers, including major choral works with instrumental ensembles or full orchestra as well as challenging *a cappella* performances.

THE CHRISTMAS CAROL AND CHANUKAH SONG WRITING COMPETITION

Established by conductor Lydia Adams in 1987, the Christmas Carol and Chanukah Song Writing Competition has presented an opportunity for composers of all ages and levels of experience.

Its principal goals are to provide a forum for new compositions to be brought forth, to motivate composers to develop their craft and to augment the existing choral repertoire for Christmas and Chanukah.

Entry rules changed in 2000. Beginning that year, and every second year thereafter, the Competition is open only to children and youth. On alternate years, beginning in 2001, the Competition is open to all composers, regardless of age and experience (see below.)

Winners of the Competition have the opportunity to hear their works performed by the Choir at its annual holiday concert in December. Several winning carols from past years are featured on the Choir's *Ring-a the News!* CD, released on the IBS label. Many works have been published by Gordon V. Thompson in the Amadeus Choir Series, Lydia Adams, Editor.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1) The entry rules for the Competition alternate every other year. In *even-numbered years* the Competition will be open to children and youth only. In *odd-numbered years* the Competition will be open to composers of all ages and levels of experience.
- 2) Submissions cannot be made posthumously. Composers must be living at the time of the application deadline and must submit their compositions personally.
- 3) Composers may enter as individuals or groups. Paid staff of the Amadeus Choir are not eligible to participate.
- 4) More than one composition may be entered by a composer. Each submission, including different arrangements of the same composition, requires a separate entry form and fee.
- 5) Entries must consist of original music. *New arrangements of existing pieces will not be accepted.*

- 6) Text must be (a) original, or (b) known to be in the public domain (e.g. Biblical), that is, not currently under copyright, or (c) under copyright, but with written permission of the copyright holder. In the case of (c), a copy of the written permission must be submitted with the entry. (Please note that text or mood should relate directly to the original story of Christmas or Chanukah.)
- 7) For the purposes of this competition, *Professional Composers* are defined as being persons 21 years of age or older who have had one or more compositions commissioned or published, or who have a composition in the process of being commissioned or published.
- 8) Entries may be submitted in any of the following Arrangement Categories, in any of the following Composer Categories. Arrangement categories may be subdivided further at the discretion of the judges.

ARRANGEMENT CATEGORIES

- 1) Unison, unaccompanied.
- 2) Unison, with accompaniment by organ/piano
- 3) Harmony (e.g. SATB, SSA, or other combination) unaccompanied.
- 4) Harmony (e.g. SATB, SSA, or other combination) with accompaniment by organ/piano and/or brass quintet.

COMPOSER CATEGORIES FOR 2007

A - Individual Compositions

(Ages are to be taken as of September 24, 2007)

- 1) Professional Composers (see #6 under General Information)
- 2) Adult - 21 and over
- 3) Youth
 - a) 18 - 20 years
 - b) 15 - 17 years
- 4) Child
 - a) 13 - 14 years
 - b) 10 - 12 years
 - c) under 10 years

Parents please note: if your child requires assistance, please limit it to the writing out of the child's completed composition.

B - Group Compositions

(A collaboration of two or more people on the music and/or the text.)

- 1) Group of two or more individuals including a Professional Composer.
- 2) Group of two or more individuals, none of whom are Professional Composers.
- 3) School class or smaller group of children.

CONTEST DETAILS

- 1) All entries must be postmarked or delivered in person to the Choir office by September 24, 2007. Compositions received after this date will not be acknowledged by mail until after the judging occurs. All entrants will be informed of the results of the judging by the end of November 2007.
- 2) All entries must be in manuscript (hand copied or produced using music notation software). Taped entries will not be accepted, with one exception: *children only* may - and are encouraged - to submit a tape of themselves performing their song, with or without accompaniment. *To complete the entry, however, written scores must accompany the tape.*
- 3) Entries must be unpublished works, although they may have been previously performed. Please send six copies of the original manuscript (not the original itself). *A cappella* pieces should be written in open score with a piano reduction underneath. Brass scores should also have one piano reduction of brass parts in concert pitch, and one copy of each brass part. *All physical copies submitted become the property of the Amadeus Choir, and will not be returned.*
- 4) The composer's name, text source and any other identifying marks should appear *only on the first page* of the manuscript. This will aid in processing the manuscript for the judges. To ensure anonymity, the manuscript will be coded, and the composer's name and all identifying marks will be covered before the work is given to the adjudicators.
- 5) The winner in each category will receive a modest cash prize, to be presented at the Amadeus Choir's December 15, 2007 holiday concert in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Winners will be informed by e-mail, phone, fax or mail. Adjudicators reserve the right to make no award in a particular category.
- 6) The Amadeus Choir reserves the right to perform winning compositions, and selected compositions that receive honourable mention, at its December 15, 2007 holiday concert. Compositions submitted in 2007 will not be performed in future years, unless subsequently published, without the consent of the composer.