

Prince George's Philharmonic Composers Competition 2017 Announcement and Guidelines for Submission

The Prince George's Philharmonic of Prince George's County, Maryland announces its First Composers Competition, in partnership with the Department of History and Government of Bowie State University. The Competition Winner will receive a commission (final amount pending funding) to write a new work for orchestra, chorus, and vocal soloists - commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the 50th Anniversary of the arrest of more than 200 Bowie State student protesters and closing of Bowie State campus by Maryland's Governor Spiro T. Agnew, and the 3rd Anniversary of the Baltimore Uprising. The work would be performed in Spring of 2018 by the Prince George's Philharmonic, area choruses, and renowned soloists.

The concept of the piece will be based on writings of John Hope Franklin's *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*, where the author describes the Civil Rights Movement as "a great symphony, composed of unique but linked segments known as movements." A final musical adaptation of this thought will reflect Franklin's delineation of four movements as pertaining to the "four identifiable segments - labor activism, challenges to the courts, nonviolent mass direct action, and assertions of black self-determination." The piece will be expected to be approximately 25-40 minutes in duration. The Competition Winner's decisions regarding texts for the final adaptation will be made in collaboration with Bowie State University's Professor Nicholas Creary.

Application Requirements

- Cover letter expressing the composer's interest in this project and concept of this medium of story-telling.
- Resumé including three (3) professional references.
- Portfolio including three (3) required works: (1) one piece (or movement) for large orchestra, (2) one piece (or movement) for chorus, accompanied or unaccompanied, and (3) one piece (or movement) for solo voice with piano or instrumental accompaniment. NB: Composers are encouraged to submit supplementary material that reflects a knowledge and effective execution of African American musical traditions.
- \$35.00 application fee made by donation through the Prince George's Philharmonic website: www.pgphilharmonic.org/donate.html, or by check made payable to Prince George's Philharmonic.

Deadline for all materials and application fees: Friday, March 31, 2017 at 11:59PM

Electronic submissions are encouraged, and should be shared via Google Drive or sent to: PGComposersCompetition@gmail.com

Hard copies and checks for application fees may be sent to:
Prince George's Philharmonic
c/o Composers Competition
7833 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Additional Information

- The Competition Winner will be announced by May 1, 2017, and will enter into a contract with the Prince George's Philharmonic reflecting the commission fee (final amount pending funding) and deadlines for final text decisions, initial sketches for the work, piano/vocal scores for chorus rehearsal, and a final deadline of December 1, 2017. Failure to adhere to these deadlines may result in forfeiture of the premiere and commission fees.
- A Second Prize Winner and Honorable Mentions will also be awarded - cash prizes pending funding.
- The Prince George's Philharmonic is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that performs five programs annually in Prince George's County, Maryland (Washington D.C. Metro Area). Their Anne Gentry Educational Outreach Program provides opportunities for talented youth of Prince George's County to participate in side-by-side programming with the Prince George's Philharmonic, as well private lessons through the Symphony Kids Program. The Orchestra has a history of commissioning new works of music by regional composers in an effort to expand the American Orchestral Repertoire. Past premieres include works by Elizabeth Palmer, Elam Ray Sprenkel, and Leslie Dunner. Additional information is available on the orchestra's website at: www.pgphilharmonic.org
- Questions regarding the competition or the application process may be sent to: PGComposer-Competition@gmail.com