

# Bach Society Orchestra 2017-18 Composition Competition

## Purpose:

The Bach Society Orchestra's annual Composition Competition is devoted to promoting and recognizing compositional excellence among Harvard's undergraduate student body.

## Eligibility:

The Bach Society Orchestra's 2017-18 Composition Competition is open to all and only undergraduate composers, excepting the winner of the 2016-17 competition.

## Musical Requirements:

An applicant must submit an original composition subject to the following requirements:

1. The piece must be no more than 15 minutes in length.
2. The piece must conform to instrumentation no larger than the following: 2 fl, 2 ob, 2 cl, 2 fg, 2 hn, 2 tp, 2 tb, tmp, hp, str. Auxiliary instruments may be used (e.g. piccolo, English Horn, other percussion); however, they must be within the number of orchestral players specified above, and not in addition to. Should any questions arise as to the appropriateness of the piece in this regard, please contact the competition coordinator, Beverly Ge ([bge1@college.harvard.edu](mailto:bge1@college.harvard.edu)), well before applying.
3. The piece must never have been performed, either publicly or privately. Pieces will be judged along three axes: aesthetic maturity, intellectual completeness, and playability. Applicants are urged to consider the context in which their piece will be performed. In addition to the first-prize winner's composition, the Bach Society will be performing Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 in D Minor and Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 in F Major.

## Rules:

Applicants must submit the following materials by 5:00 pm on Monday, February 19, 2018:

1. An email to the Competitions Coordinator (Beverly Ge, [bge1@college.harvard.edu](mailto:bge1@college.harvard.edu)), with his or her name, 8-digit HUID number, email address, and phone number.
2. A manila envelope, containing **three** copies of the score of their composition, to the BachSoc mailbox in the Music Building (across from the student lounge).
  - a. Scores must be typeset using a computer application (e.g. Finale, Sibelius). Handwritten scores will not be accepted.
  - b. Clearly label the scores with your 8-digit HUID number. No other biographical information (name, age, sex, etc.) should appear on the score. A name on a score may disqualify an applicant from the competition.
3. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include a MIDI recording with their application, which can be emailed to the competition coordinator.
4. **OPTIONAL:** A single-spaced, single-sided, one-page analysis or explanation of the piece. Applicants may use this opportunity to inform the judges of the style, structure, inspiration, or any other aspects of the piece. As above, if the applicant chooses to submit this, he/she must ensure that no biographical information appears on it.

The judges' decisions are uncontestable and final. In extreme cases, the Bach Society Orchestra reserves the right to select no winner. The Bach Society Orchestra also reserves the right to ask the winning composer to revise his/her piece if the level of difficulty is unsuitable for the orchestra. Any questions regarding the competition should be directed to Beverly Ge (bge1@college.harvard.edu), who will then relay them to the Music Director in order to preserve the anonymity of the applicants.

**Prize:**

The First Prize Winner will have his or her composition performed by the Bach Society Orchestra on Saturday, April 21, 2018 in Paine Hall. Additional honorary prizes may be awarded according at the judges' discretion.