

Bach Society Orchestra

2011 – 2012 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 2011 – 2012 Composition Competition is open to all and only Harvard undergraduate composers, excepting the winner of the 2010 – 2011 Competition.

Musical Requirements:

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

1. The piece must last 15 minutes or less.
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 Sandra Korn well before applying (sandrakorn@college).
3. The piece must never have been performed, neither publicly nor privately. Pieces will be judged along the three axes of aesthetic maturity, intellectual completeness, and playability. Applicants are urged to consider the context in which their piece will be performed: the other pieces on the program will be Debussy's Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun, Dvorak's Serenade for Winds, and Bartok's Divertimento for Strings.

Rules:

Applicants must submit the following materials by 11:59PM on Friday, December 9, 2011:

1. An e-mail to competition coordinator Sandra Korn (sandrakorn@college.harvard.edu), with their name, 8-digit HUID number, e-mail, and phone number.
2. A manila envelope containing two 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 scores. A name on a score may disqualify an applicant from the competition.

3. **OPTIONAL:** A single-spaced, single-sided, one page analysis or explanation of the piece. Applicants may use this as an opportunity to inform the judges of the style, structure, inspiration, or any other aspect of their piece. As above, if the applicant chooses to submit this, they 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.

Any questions regarding the competition should be directed to Sandra Korn (sandrakorn@college), 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 their composition performed by the Bach Society Orchestra on March 24th, 2012. Additional honorary prizes may be awarded according to the judges' discretion.