Bach Society Orchestra
2015-16 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 2015-16 Composition Competition is open to all and only undergraduate composers, excepting the winner of the 2014-15 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, Alexandra Bartlett, well before applying (abartlett@college.harvard.edu).
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 Pärt’s Wenn Bach Bienen Gezuchtet Hatte, Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto in E Minor, and one other piece to be decided.

Rules:

Applicants must submit the following materials by 12:00 PM (noon) on Friday, January 29, 2016:
1. An email to the Competitions Coordinator (Alexandra Bartlett, abartlett@college.harvard.edu), with his or her name, 8-digit HUID number, email address, 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 score. 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 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. Any questions regarding the
competition should be directed to Alexandra Bartlett
(abartlett@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 Friday, March 4, 2016 in Paine Hall. Additional honorary prizes may be
awarded according to the judges’ discretion.