

Cantate Chamber Singers

ELEVENTH BIENNIAL YOUNG COMPOSERS' CONTEST

\$1,000 CASH AWARD

As part of its commitment to "innovative programming and creative educational outreach that promotes young artists," Cantate Chamber Singers announces its eleventh biennial Young Composers' Contest for residents of the US and Canada 35 years old or younger.

CONTEST GUIDELINES

1. The contest is limited to residents of the United States and Canada not older than 35 years on June 30, 2017 (born after June 30, 1982).
2. Only one work per composer will be accepted.
3. Entries shall be scored for SATB, 4 to 8 parts, a cappella or with piano accompaniment. Entries must be eight minutes or less in length.
4. Required Text: Poem by Bert Iffill: "The Rest is Silence".
5. Compositions must be received not later than 5:00 p.m. EDT, June 30, 2017. Compositions may not be faxed or sent by e-mail. The winner will be notified in October 2017.
6. Four clearly reproduced copies of the entry must be submitted for judging. Illegible copies will be eliminated from the contest and the composer so notified.
7. Composition copies will be returned only if sufficient postage accompanies a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Applicants are strongly urged to retain a copy of the entry, as Cantate cannot be responsible for material lost in transit.
8. Entries must be clearly identified as to title and source of text. The composer's name must not appear on the copies. A pseudonym shall be clearly printed on the manuscript and on the Application Form. Compositions are to remain anonymous to the judges.
9. Cantate Chamber Singers claims the right for first performance: Therefore, compositions must be new works that have never before been performed in any form in public nor in a studio, classroom or workshop, except for academic purposes. Entries may have been previously submitted in other contests, providing that no part of the composition has been a prize-winning entry.
10. Performance of the prize-winning piece by Cantate Chamber Singers is anticipated during the 2017-2018 season. However, Cantate reserves the right to award the prize without performance. It also reserves the right to make no award if, in the opinion of the judges, the compositions submitted do not meet standards of excellence.

The Rest is Silence

the pause just before the last step you take
into the heart of the deep woods

the breath you hold as you plunge
into the spring-cold lake

the instant between the end of a lullaby
and the long-awaited droop of a baby's body into sleep

the quiet sigh that envelops departing lovers
just after they realize there's nothing more to say

the caesura between a decision and the act

if we could but string all of these together
we could make a profound music
so heavy with latent possibility
with such portentous restraint

that any sound that follows is superfluous
the preparation, the anticipation
--the readiness--

is all.

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Young Composers Competition

APPLICATION FORM

CANTATE CHAMBER SINGERS ELEVENTH YOUNG COMPOSERS' CONTEST

(Please print)

Name _____

Present address _____

(Street) (City/State/ZIP)

Phone () _____ Email _____

Permanent address (if other than above) _____

(Street) (City/State/Zip)

School name (if applicable) _____

Date of birth _____

Pseudonym _____

(This pseudonym must be clearly printed on each copy. The applicant's name shall not appear thereon.)

Title of composition _____ Performance time _____

I certify that the above-titled composition is my original work; that it has not been published nor performed in any form in public, outside a studio or classroom; and that it has not been awarded any prize heretofore.

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANT

1. The application package shall contain the following:
 - a. Application Form completed and signed.
 - b. Four clearly reproduced copies of the entry to be submitted for judging. Copies not distinctly readable will be eliminated from the contest, and the composer notified.
 - c. If return of the entry is desired, a self-addressed, stamped envelope with sufficient postage to secure the return of copies.
2. Entries must be clearly identified as to title and source of text. The composer's name must not appear on the copies. A pseudonym shall be clearly printed on the manuscript and Application Form. Compositions are to remain anonymous to the judges.
3. Entry packages must be received not later than 5:00 p.m. EDT, June 30, 2017. Applications received after this date and time will not be accepted.
4. Questions may be submitted to ycc@cantate.org

MAIL TO:

Annette Reilly, YCC Coordinator
Cantate Chamber Singers
P.O. Box 11433
Takoma Park, MD 20913