



Spring 2018

**Announcing the Young Choral Composers Initiative sponsored by
Da Camera Singers of Amherst, Massachusetts**

Da Camera Singers of Amherst, Massachusetts, is calling for submissions of choral pieces, 4 to 8 minutes in duration, from young composers (to age 30) in the Northeast area. Student composers are strongly urged to submit manuscripts. Three compositions will be chosen to be work-shopped with the choir in the early fall, and performed in a public concert in January, 2019. Commission composers will be paired with an established composer who will mentor the young composer and provide feedback on the composition. Each of the chosen commission composers will receive a prize of \$500.00.

Composition Requirements:

- Length: 4 to 8 minutes in duration
- Voicing: SATB choir, solos if desired
- Instrumentation: Piano and one additional instrument, if desired. A cappella pieces also accepted.
- Text: must be in the public domain, or written permission must be acquired from the poet if a modern text. Both secular and sacred texts accepted.
- Style/Genre: Open to all styles and genres.
- Submission deadline: August 15, 2018

Goals of project:

- Pair young composers with established composers, who will give the young composers feedback and advice on their composition and text setting.
- Offer opportunity for young composers to workshop a piece of choral music with a choral ensemble. In the workshop process the winning composers will hear a reading of their work and receive feedback from the singers. Composers will then have the opportunity to make modifications of the composition based on the feedback.
- Provide young composers a public performance and recording of a work they have composed.

Timetable:

- Submissions due on August 15, 2018
- Winners will be notified that their compositions have been chosen by mid September.

- Winners will be paired with an established choral composers from the Pioneer Valley.
- The three winning composers will attend a Da Camera Singers workshop (Saturday in October) to hear their pieces, and get feedback from the singers, their mentor composer and each other.
- Composers will have time to take the feedback and make changes on their compositions.
- Final edits and new scores will be shared with conductor of DaCamera Singers in early November.

Performance:

- January, 2019, Da Camera Singers presents Young Composer Commission Concerts (two), with composers in audience.

Submissions:

- Submissions should be sent to Sheila Heffernon (contact information below)
- Submissions should be in score form, and can be mailed or emailed.
- Please be in touch with Sheila Heffernon with any questions.

Contact information:

→ Sheila Heffernon, director, Da Camera Singers:

→ heffernon@gmail.com

◆ 1 Lamplighter Way, Box 4935, Mount Hermon, MA 01354