

THE 56th ANNUAL
BMI STUDENT COMPOSER AWARDS
co-sponsored by BMI and the BMI Foundation, Inc.

2008 OFFICIAL RULES

FOREWORD

At a meeting in Chicago in June 1951, a group of composers and educators was invited by BMI to devise a plan to encourage and aid young composers. The result was BMI Student Composer Awards, which has won the national support of major American and international educational and musical figures. Awards are to be made for compositions, vocal, instrumental or electronic (or any combination thereof), submitted by students actively engaged in the study of music. Working with chairman Milton Babbitt, the current board includes: John C. Adams, Del Bryant, Elliott Carter, George Crumb, Norman Dello Joio, Donald J. Erb, Susan Feder, Ralph N. Jackson, Andrew Imbrie, Leon Kirchner, Lalo Schiffrin, Gunther Schuller, Joseph Schwantner, Robert Thompson, and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be citizens of countries in the Western Hemisphere and must be either enrolled in accredited public, private or parochial secondary schools, in accredited colleges or conservatories of music, or engaged in the private study of music with recognized and established teachers (other than a relative). An applicant must not have reached his/her twenty-eighth (28th) birthday as of February 15, 2008. Any composer having won this award (3) times previously is not eligible to enter the contest again (Honorable Mention excluded).

If any text, lyric or libretto is used in the composition, the composer must submit to BMI along with the entry either (a) proper written permission from the author or other copyright proprietor of the text, lyric or libretto for its use in the composition or (b) information as to the source from which the text, lyric or libretto was taken, with evidence that it is in the public domain. As a general guideline, this year written permission is probably required for all texts copyrighted in 1923 or after. If the composer is also the author of the text, a statement to that effect must be included with the entry. Entries which involve texts will not be accepted without this information.

No composition will be considered without a certification that to the best of the certifier's knowledge the composition is an original work and complies with the conditions set forth in the entry blank: "I warrant that I am the sole composer and owner of such composition; that it is an original work; that it has never been published (other than self published), commercially recorded, or received any prize or award, and that I have the full right and authority to enter the composition in this competition." Such certification, together with a statement of the applicant's age and citizenship shall be submitted on an official certification form by a music teacher for a secondary school applicant or for an applicant engaged in the private study of music with someone other than a relative or by an official of the music department for an undergraduate or graduate student in a college or conservatory. This certification will be detached and retained in the files as evidence of eligibility and in no case will be seen by the judges prior to their decision. In the event that a composition shall be the work of more than a single composer, all such co-writers must be eligible to enter this contest. Such a jointly written work shall be considered as a single entry. Should a jointly written work receive any type of award under this contest, the proceeds shall be divided equally, unless the co-authors of the compositions shall indicate otherwise in writing.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS AND COMPOSITIONS

Official Rules, certification blank, entry blank and score identification form are available at www.bmifoundation.org. The forms are to be filled out, endorsed and returned with the composition by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Director, postmarked not later than **February 15, 2008**. Entries with incomplete applications or lacking teacher certification forms or text permission (if applicable) will not be considered.

The composition must be marked with a pseudonym and must carry the notation "BMI Student Composer Awards." The pseudonym must also appear on the properly completed Official Entry Blank, the Official Certification Form and the Score Identification Form. The composer's name or any other information indicating the identity, school or geographical location of the composer must be removed from the score.

Composer's name must not appear any place except on entry blank, certification, and large self-addressed return envelope, which must have the return address in upper left hand corner: Ralph N. Jackson, BMI Student Composer Awards, 320 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019. Notify the Director of the Student Composer Awards in writing of any change in permanent address or summer address. No phone calls, please. To permit return of the composition after judging has been completed, the following must be included:

1. an envelope large enough for the composition, self-addressed with composer's permanent address or summer address, with BMI return address in upper left corner. A **FULLY COMPLETED RETURN RECEIPT FORM MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE RETURN ENVELOPE**. Scores will be returned from July to September.

2. sufficient postage for certified mail with the return receipt (postage must be sent in stamps and affixed to return envelope). Students outside of the United States are not required to submit return postage.

MANUSCRIPTS AND RECORDINGS OF ELECTRONIC WORKS

All manuscripts must be in legible form and may be submitted either on usual score paper or reproduced by a generally accepted reproduction process. Any inaccuracies in the score will be taken adversely into account in the final judging of the composition. The Director reserves the right to refuse to submit to the judges any manuscript which, in his opinion, is illegible or musically illiterate. A copy of the composition submitted must be retained by the applicant. **APPLICANTS SHOULD NOT SEND RECORDINGS OF WORKS WHICH HAVE ORDINARY SCORING.**

Electronic music and recordings of non-traditionally scored graphic works which cannot adequately be presented in score may be submitted. Recordings should be on CD. Information concerning source material and electronic equipment used must be included in order that the judges can evaluate the work properly. A composer entering a score which includes an electronic recording should try to send the score with a recording of the entire work, labeled with composition name and pseudonym. **APPLICANTS SHOULD NOT SEND RECORDINGS OF WORKS WHICH HAVE ORDINARY SCORING.**

LIMITATIONS OF MANUSCRIPTS AND RECORDINGS OF ELECTRONIC WORKS SUBMITTED

Because it is the wish of BMI Student Composer Awards to encourage the creation of all types of concert music, no limitations are established as to medium, instrumentation or length of manuscript. A composer may enter no more than one composition, which need not have been composed during the year of entry. All manuscripts and recordings shall remain the property of the composers, except that a copy of all award winning scores will be included in the BMI Archives. Due care will be used in protecting all manuscripts and recordings received from applicants, but each applicant specifically releases all persons, associations and corporations, and each of their representatives on the contest committees or otherwise, as well as the judges, from any and all claims and damages arising out of the loss or destruction of submitted compositions, however caused.

AWARDS

Prizes totaling \$20,000 and ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 will be awarded at the discretion of the judges. The judges shall have the right to determine the amount of each award to be given and the number of such awards to be made. In the event that the judges consider that the quality of the entries does not warrant the awarding of any prizes or of prizes totaling the full amount of \$20,000, the judges shall have the right to make no awards or to make awards totaling less than such full amount. The William Schuman Prize will be given to the score judged "most outstanding" in the competition. This prize is given in memory of the late William Schuman, who served for 40 years as the chairman and then chairman emeritus for the BMI Student Composer Awards.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

The contest will end as of midnight, February 15, 2008. Submissions must be postmarked by this time. Public announcement of BMI Student Composer Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2008. Winners will be notified in May and a press release listing winners will be included with scores when they are mailed during the summer. Please do not telephone. We notify all award winners in advance of announcement to the public and other entrants.

JUDGES

No fewer than three judges of competence shall pass on the merits of compositions submitted. The decisions and conclusions of the judges shall be final. Judges who served in the 55th annual competition were:

FINAL JUDGES: Richard Danielpour, David Dzubay, Christopher Rouse, Gunther Schuller and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich

PRELIMINARY JUDGES: Chester Biscardi, David Leisner, and Bernadette Speech

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING COMPOSITIONS

Compositions will be judged on evidence of true creative talent. Academic finesse, while not disregarded, will be considered secondary to vital musicality and clarity of expression of the composer's work. There is no limitation whatsoever on style. The judges will take into account: (a) Formal content of the composition. This concerns the continuity and coherent expression of the composer's ideas, (b) Melodic, harmonic and rhythmic idioms will be judged solely in terms of their consistency and suitability for the intent of the particular composition, (c) Instrumentation, orchestration and vocal writing will be judged on the suitability of the choice and use of instruments or voices to the ideas presented in the composition, and (d) Age of the composer at the time of completion of the manuscript. When two compositions are of equal merit in the opinion of the judges, but there is an age disparity, preference will be given to the younger contestant.

Address all inquiries for information, rules and entry blanks to:

RALPH N. JACKSON, Director
BMI Student Composer Awards
320 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019, U.S.A.

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CERTIFICATION

I _____ am _____
(teacher) (title)
at _____
(name of institution)
located at _____
(city) (state) (zip) (country)

and do hereby certify that:

1. _____ is now a student in my class or department;

2. I am not related to the applicant;

3. I am familiar with the composition:

Title: _____

Scored for: _____

Pseudonym used by the composer: _____

which applicant is herewith submitting to the 56th Annual BMI Student Composer Awards -- 2008;

4. to the best of my knowledge and belief this composition is wholly original and has never been published (other than self published), recorded commercially or received any prize or award;

5. the applicant was born at: _____, and is a **citizen*** of: _____
(city) (state) (country) (country)

6. submission of such composition is approved by me;

7. according to the records of this institution, applicant's permanent address is _____
(street)

(city) (state) (zip) (country) (telephone) (e-mail address)

8. applicant will not have reached his/her twenty-eighth (28th) birthday as of February 15, 2008 and

9. applicant has graduated or expects to graduate from this institution on _____
(fill in proper date)

with the diploma or degree of _____
(If a private student, give details on back of this form)

DATE: _____
(teacher's signature)

*** Applicants MUST be citizens of countries in the Western Hemisphere (North, South, and Central America, the Caribbean Island Nations and the Hawaiian Islands).**

This Certification, along with the Official Entry Blank and Score Identification Form, must be attached by staple or paper clip to the score.

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OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK

TO ACCOMPANY ENTRY BEARING THE
FOLLOWING PSEUDONYM: _____

DATE _____

I, the undersigned, was born at _____ on _____ and am now a
(city, state, country) (date)

citizen* of _____ residing at _____
(country) (street)

(city) (state) (zip) (country) (telephone)

and am a student of _____ at _____
(teacher) (institution)

located at _____
(city, state) (If a private student, give details on back of this form)

and submit herewith a composition entitled _____

scored for _____ timing _____

I warrant that I am the sole composer and owner of such composition; that it is an original work; that it has never been published (other than self published), recorded commercially or received any prize or award, and that I have the full right and authority to enter this composition in this competition. I have read and agree to all the terms and conditions contained in the official rules of the awards.

NAME _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip) (country)

PERMANENT TELEPHONE _____ SOCIAL SECURITY # _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ (print clearly)

*** Applicants MUST be citizens of countries in the Western Hemisphere (North, South, and Central America, the Caribbean Island Nations and the Hawaiian Islands).**

This Entry Blank, along with the Certification and the Score Identification Form, must be attached to by staple or paper clip to the score.

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Score Identification Form

The information below will be seen by the judges of the competition. Please write clearly and complete this form fully.

COMPOSER'S AGE AS OF COMPLETION OF ATTACHED COMPOSITION: _____

COMPOSER'S AGE AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 2008: _____

NAME OF COMPOSITION: _____

SCORED FOR: _____

SCORE IS: "C SCORE" OR "TRANSPOSED SCORE" (CIRCLE ONE)

APPROXIMATE TIMING: _____

PSEUDONYM: _____

This Score ID Form, along with the Entry Blank and Certification, must be attached to by staple or paper clip to the score.

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APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please use this checklist to make certain that you are eligible to enter the competition and that your application is complete. **Your application will be disqualified if the following criteria are not met** (see "Official Rules" for details):

The composer is:

- 1. a **citizen** of a country in the Western Hemisphere (North, South, and Central America, the Caribbean Island Nations, and the Hawaiian Islands)
- 2. under 28 years old as of February 15, 2008, and
- 3. currently studying music either privately or in school.

The submitted score:

- 1. **does not have the composer's name written on it and does not have any information which would indicate the identity, school or geographical location of the composer.**
(check all pages of your score),
- 2. is marked with a pseudonym,
- 3. carries the notation "BMI Student Composer Awards," and
- 4. is a legible, accurate copy of the composition.

The application contains:

- 1. the score (see above),
- 2. a fully completed 2008 Entry Blank
- 3. a fully completed 2008 Certification Form
- 4. a fully completed Score Identification Form
- 5. written text permission, if words are used in the composition (see "Official Rules"),
- 6. a self-addressed, stamped* envelope large enough for return of the manuscript. All entries **MUST** be returned.

*applications which will be returned to an address outside the United States and its territories are not required to include return postage.

The application must be:

- 1. postmarked by February 15, 2008
- 2. complete, including all elements of the application (see above), and
- 3. sent in a single mailing to: Ralph N. Jackson, Director,
BMI Student Composer Awards, 320 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019 USA