

The AGO Committee on New Music is pleased to announce the

2022 AGO/ECS PUBLISHING AWARD IN CHORAL COMPOSITION

Eighteenth Biennial Competition

AWARD

- \$2,000 commission for a new work for SATB choir and organ with congregational participation
- Performance at the 2022 AGO National Convention in Seattle, Washington
- Publication by ECS Publishing Corporation

COMMISSION

Composers will propose a commission for a work for SATB choir and organ with congregational participation, utilizing the text of "Christmas Eve" by Christina Rossetti. The piece should be between five and eight minutes in length, and the organ must play a significant role. There are no restrictions with regard to compositional style. The submitted proposal should reflect the composer's compositional strength and interests. The work should be of the highest quality and suitable for concert and liturgical performance by moderate to advanced choirs.

ELIGIBILITY

Composers of all ages are welcome to enter, and the applicant need not be a member of the American Guild of Organists. Previous winners of the AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition may not enter. Prior organ composition experience is not necessary and will not hinder consideration of an application.

APPLICATION MATERIALS AND DEADLINE

A completed online application has four parts
(see Agohq.org/new-music-competitions-commissions):

1. An application form.
2. A proposal for commission—not longer than two pages.
The proposal should explain how the proposed commission would be useful to the AGO membership as well as provide insight into your creative thinking as a composer.
3. A one-page résumé.
4. Two sample scores, at least one of which must be less than three years old. One score must demonstrate command of writing for choir. The other must demonstrate command of writing for a keyboard instrument. You may also submit corresponding sound files with either of the scores.

All application materials must be submitted online on or before July 1, 2020. The winner of the commission will be announced on or before September 30, 2020.

JUDGING AND COMMISSIONING GUIDELINES

A panel of professional composers and performers will evaluate all applications, selecting as a winner a composer who holds the highest potential for producing a lasting contribution to the choral repertoire as well as one that is meaningful to the AGO membership. An advance payment of \$1,000 will be awarded at the time of commissioning. The remaining \$1,000 will be awarded upon receipt of an autographed copy of the completed score, due no later than June 30, 2021. If the commission is not completed on time, the commission advance must be repaid. Arrangements for publication of the winning composition will be made between the composer and ECS Publishing Corporation.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas hath a darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all Angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Christina Rossetti
(1830–1894)

For more information, contact AGO Headquarters or visit the AGO website.

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American Guild of Organists • Agohq.org

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