Chronos Vocal Ensemble

Choral Composition Competition

2025–26 Guidelines and Requirements

CHRONOS
vocal ensemble

Updated December 2025

2025-26 Competition Guidelines and Requirements

Chronos Vocal Ensemble is an ambitious nonprofessional Canadian chamber choir, founded in 2013 and based in Edmonton. From its inception, Chronos has championed Canadian music and supported the creation of new works through premieres, recordings, commissions, workshops with composers, and an annual composition competition, held since 2017.

This competition is open to diverse entries, whether aligning with the Western classical canon or from outside that tradition, as well as works which explore aleatoric and indeterminate elements, and/or use graphic notation.

This competition is supported significantly by an anonymous donor, whose generous gift is greatly appreciated.

Eligibility

Any Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or landed immigrant may enter. Past winners, and composers who have been commissioned by Chronos Vocal Ensemble, are ineligible.

Guidelines for an eligible submission:

- The work submitted must be original, and not an arrangement of an existing work or melody.
- Works previously entered to this competition are ineligible, as are compositions based upon prior entries.
- Works must be submitted as a printable score. Hand-written scores may be entered, but illegible submissions will be deemed ineligible, and the entry fee refunded.
- The composition must not have been commissioned, published, performed, or recorded at the time of entry, and must remain so until the competition results are announced. The winning entry must remain so until after the premiere performance by Chronos Vocal Ensemble in the year following the entry deadline.

For further technical guidelines, see "General Guidelines" below.

Prizes

The winning entry will be awarded a prize of $1500, and the premiere performance will be presented in concert by Chronos Vocal Ensemble in the year following the entry deadline. The winning composer will be provided with a recording of the performance.

Evaluation Criteria

Anonymous evaluation will be undertaken by a jury of Canadian choral professionals assisted by Artistic Director Jordan Van Biert.

The jury will be asked to evaluate compositions with a view to the following:

- Original and creative choral work, suitably setting the chosen text
- Idiomatic choral writing with coherent style
- That technically complex/difficult elements serve the piece well
- That the work is suited for performance by Chronos Vocal Ensemble, making use of the ensemble's skill and providing reward, challenges and/or learning opportunities

All entrants will receive written feedback from the jury upon request.

The decisions of the jury are final. The jury may at its discretion, withhold all prizes. The jury may award honorable mentions, and will consult with the applicable composer(s) regarding publication of such a mention.

General Guidelines

The deadline for submissions is **January 15, 2026 at 5 PM MST**

One entry per composer.

Entries should be not less than three and not more than five minutes in duration.

Entries must be unaccompanied; i.e. for voices alone. Works in open score should include a piano reduction if possible.

An entry using a text under copyright must provide a letter of permission from the copyright holder.

The composer retains the copyright of the musical work.

Submission Requirements

The text material should appear in the score (e.g. on inside cover page) in program-formatting where applicable, or be submitted as such in a separate document.

All entrants must complete the entry form linked on the Chronos Vocal Ensemble website, submit the entrance fee of $25, and submit required files by email to competition@chronosvocalensemble.com.

All entries will be acknowledged by email. If confirmation has not been received within one week of submission or three days after the deadline, please inquire with competition@chronosvocalensemble.com

Entries must include TWO PDF versions of the composition, print-ready:

- One copy must be anonymized (any name, trademark, background narratives or identifying marks/information removed) for evaluation by our jury. Please name the file: Anon-TitleofWork
- One copy must be in performance-ready condition (including composer name, any copyright information etc). Please name the file: YourName-TitleofWork

Entries may include:

- An mp3 or MIDI audio file of the composition, particularly if no piano reduction is provided.
- A short technical note (up to 200 words) to assist with evaluation and/or performance. This note may discuss any performance considerations, notation information, language considerations, and/or explanation of unique or potentially-unfamiliar idioms. It should not speak to the theme or conception of the work, nor include identifying information about the composer.
- If not already included in the score, a separate file containing the text of the work.

Entry forms must include a completed and signed declaration.

A biography and headshot will be requested of the winner, but are not required with the entry.

Performance and Dissemination

By submitting a composition, the entering composer grants the following rights to Chronos Vocal Ensemble if selected as a winner:

- The right for the premiere performance of the winning composition for one year after entry deadline.
- The right to stream the premiere performance online and/or post performance recordings on YouTube, SoundCloud and/or other online locations.
- The exclusive right to produce a commercial recording of the composition for eighteen months following the entry deadline.