

# NHMTA Commissioned Composer Guidelines

## Philosophy

### NHMTA Commissioned Composer Guidelines

MTNA is dedicated to encouraging the creation of new works by American composers and assists its affiliated state associations in the generation and performance of new music through the national composers commissioning program. A newly commissioned composition receives its premiere performance at the conference of the state MTA that commissions the work.

The New Hampshire Music Teachers Association will commission a new composition in alternating years. The next Commissioned Composition will be commissioned in 2020 and performed at the bi-annual Quad-State Conference in fall 2021 in Maine. The winner will receive a \$750 award from NHMTA and a matching award of \$750 from MTNA, for a total of \$1500 to be presented at the premiere of the work. In addition, the composition will be submitted into the national *MTNA-Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year* competition, which awards a \$5000 cash prize.

## General Considerations

With each application cycle, NHMTA reserves the right to:

1. Invite nominated composers to write a new commissioned work; and
2. Stipulate a performance medium agreed upon by the Commissioned Composer Committee. The medium for the 2021 Commissioned Composition is Duo: Piano and Voice.

## Composer Invitation Procedure

1. The NHMTA Commissioned Composer committee will be comprised of at least three (3) NHMTA members and will include the Commissioned Composer Chair.
2. The committee will submit nominations for composers in the spring of even years for discussion and vote. A final selection will be made at least fifteen months prior to the Fall Quad-State Conference (in odd years) but may be chosen earlier. The committee will agree upon a medium or decide not to restrict the composer. Works of modest length (15 minutes or less) will be encouraged.
3. The Commissioned Composer Program is open to NHMTA members and non- members. Invited composers are not required to reside in New Hampshire.
4. The Quad-State Conference meets in alternating odd years and these NHMTA Commissioned Composer Guidelines shall commence with the fall 2015 conference and continue every other year thereafter. NHMTA will contribute to the travel expenses for performers to attend the Quad-State Conference.

5. If asked, an invited composer will submit to the committee:
  - a. A cover letter stating the composer's intent of the performance medium of the piece if not chosen beforehand by the committee;
  - b. A brief (1-2) page resume;
  - c. Electronic scores, attached as PDF files, along with mp3's or YouTube/Soundcloud recordings are encouraged. Midi files are also acceptable. These should be emailed to *Constance Chesebrough*, [cchesebrough@roadrunner.com](mailto:cchesebrough@roadrunner.com).
  - d. If scores or recordings are mailed by USPS, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for their return. These should be sent to: *Constance Chesebrough, PO Box 384, North Woodstock, NH, 03262, 603-252-1551*.
  - e. Applications must be received by March 15, 2020.
6. The commissioned composer must agree that the premier of the work will be given at the Quad-State Conference of the year they are invited to be the NHMTA Commissioned Composer. The work must not be publicly performed prior to that date. The selected composer is responsible for providing the performer(s) for the presentation of the new work at the Quad-State Conference.
7. The total honorarium of \$1500 (\$750 from NHMTA and \$750 from MTNA) will be presented to the winning composer at the premiere of the work at the Quad-State Conference.
8. An NHMTA Commissioned Composer may not be chosen for two consecutive cycles.

### **If chosen as MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year:**

1. Should the NHMTA Commissioned Composer's work be chosen as the *MTNA-Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year*, the composer is required to present the new work at the national conference and is responsible for providing the performer(s) in the conference host city. MTNA provides no honorarium to defray expenses for these performances, though NHMTA will consider contributing to the travel costs on a case by case basis.
2. The total time allotted for this winning work, including recognition of the composer and presentation of the award, is twenty (20) minutes. When the length of the composition exceeds this amount of time, a representative portion of it may be presented.
3. A composer entering a contractual agreement for commission of a new work will have his/her labeled score and CD deposited in the MTNA Archives at the University of Cincinnati Libraries. This is intended to encourage other performances of a commissioned work by making the score available for study and interlibrary loan. In an effort to protect the rights of the composer, the staff at MTNA National Headquarters affixes this notice to the front of the score:

*Important Notice:*

*Reproduction of this score, in whole or part, by mechanical or handwritten means is prohibited. The composer holds all rights pertaining to the attached score, including performance rights. Permission to perform this work must be obtained from the composer.*

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