

# VOCES8 Composition Competition 2023

Important information and how to enter

## Competition Rules

- Only one work may be submitted per composer.
- Entries must be the composer's original work - arrangements are not allowed.
- Pieces must be able to be performed live by the eight singers of VOCES8, without any additional instruments or technology.
- Entries must not have received any sort of prior public performance or recording, and must be unpublished.
- Pieces should take no longer than 4 minutes to perform, based on a metronome mark at the head of the score. Substantial speed changes should be given a new metronome mark.
- The text set must be in English and must be in the public domain.
- Entries must be submitted anonymously (see detailed instructions below).
- The decision of the judging panel is final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the outcome of the competition.
- By entering the competition you agree, if chosen as the winner, to take part in post-competition publicity and to your name being publicly known.
- By entering you agree to abide by these rules. Entries which do not comply will not be considered.

## Tips on writing for VOCES8

The group consists of 8 voices in the arrangement SSActTBarB. Individual ranges are as follows:

- Andrea (Soprano 1) - C4 to D6
- Molly (Soprano 2) - A3 to C6
- Katie (Alto) - G3 to F5
- Barney (Countertenor) - G3 to E5 (Additional Bass-baritone range for harmonic filler E2 to G3)
- Blake (Tenor 1) - Eflat3 to Bflat4
- Euan (Tenor 2) - C3 to A4
- Chris (Baritone) - E2 to Fsharp4
- Dominic (Bass) - Eflat2 to D4

This represents the extremities of our ranges and might be better thought of as a guideline, rather than a challenge!

We encourage composers to explore the possibilities of different textures that this arrangement of voices allows. For example, VOCES8 often sings music in a double choir format, with two quartets of SATB. We pay a lot of attention as a group to the "fundamentals" of a cappella singing such as the balance, tuning and voicing of chords, and creating a blended group sound while also finding moments to bring out our individual vocal colour. Furthermore as singers, we are lucky to work with text. We enjoy singing music that expresses texts in innovative and nuanced ways while retaining a clarity of overall message.

## How To Enter - please read carefully

Please email a full score as a pdf file to **composers@voces8.foundation**. This can be computer-typeset or handwritten, but must clearly contain all instructions necessary to perform the piece, without additional typesetting. Sending an mp3/midi mock-up with your score is strongly encouraged but not essential.

So that all entries can be judged anonymously you must submit your work under a pseudonym, which should appear both at the top of the score and in the file name. **Take care to ensure your real name does not appear anywhere on the score or in the file name.** In the body of the email, please state the following information: your real name, age, and the country you live in. Your email address and personal information will only be seen by an administrator outside the judging panel, in order to preserve anonymity in the judging process. We will contact the winner via the email address used to enter, so please use an account you check regularly.

**The deadline for entries is Friday 12th May, 23:59 BST.** You will be notified if your piece has been selected for consideration by the judging panel by Monday 22nd May and the winner will be contacted by Friday 2nd June.