

THE ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY

CHRISTMAS CAROL COMPETITION



Guidelines/Terms & Conditions

The guidelines and terms and conditions for entry into the RCS and carol competition are laid out below, and are binding on all applicants. We look forward to receiving your competition entries.

If you need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact us:
carol@royalchoralsociety.co.uk

Competition Guidelines/Terms and Conditions

1. The RCS Carol competition is open to anyone born on or after 1st January 1986, except for members of the RCS, their families, or anyone else who is professionally associated with the competition.
2. Composers should be born on or after after 1st January 1986. A copy of your birth certificate, passport or equivalent document may be required to prove your age.
3. The carol must be for mixed voices (SATB or larger) and can be written in any of the following ways:
 - a cappella.
 - accompanied by organ (very large Royal Albert Hall organ).
 - accompanied by orchestra (normal medium-size classical orchestra including trombones and some percussion and harp).
 - by both orchestra and organ.
 - accompanied by harp or just the brass instruments.
4. Remember you are writing for an experienced amateur choir, numbering about 150, who have limited rehearsal time, and we would ask you to take the level of difficulty into consideration when writing your piece.
5. The length of the carol should not exceed five minutes. An effective work of one minute would not in any way be judged inferior to a work of four minutes. The quality and practicality of the music will be the main criteria. We are looking for a serious composition and not a piece of easy-listening light music.
6. Please remember to indicate tempi.
7. Three copies of the carol score must be supplied (please ensure contact details are on each copy).
8. Entries must be computer processed (Sibelius, Finale or similar).
9. Scores should be accompanied by a recording of the piece (presumably synthesized) on CD if possible (please ensure contact details are on each copy).
10. Please retain a copy for yourself. Receipt of scores/CDs will not be acknowledged and they will not be returned.
11. Applications will be acknowledged via email. Please ensure that you complete your email address clearly on the application form.

12. The text should be sacred, though a suitable secular text which alluded to Christmas and the spirit of Christmas could be considered. It may be written in any language, but a translation should be provided if not in English.
13. If using an existing text, the rights to the text must be cleared and evidence of copyright holder's permission must be included.
14. The RCS will appoint an adjudicating panel whose decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
15. To be eligible, entries must be received on or before 1st February 2012.
16. The RCS will not be responsible for late, lost or damaged entries.
17. The winner and runners-up will be informed by email by 1st June 2012 and announced on the RCS website.
18. There will be one overall winner who will receive a cash prize of £1000 and their composition will be performed by the RCS at their carol concert in December 2012.
19. The RCS will have the right to perform any entries of a high enough standard, in addition to the prize-winning entry.
20. The competition winner may be required to take part in or co-operate with publicity. It is a condition of entry that any winner consents to their name and country of residence to be published on the RCS website.
21. The RCS reserves the right to withhold the first prize if the required standard is not reached.
22. For details of the winning entry, please visit the website after 1st June or write (enclosing an SAE) to: RCS Carol Competition, Studio 9, 92 Lots Road, London SW10 0QD.
23. Whilst we have tried to cover all matters concerning the competition, the RCS reserves the right to amend these rules in the event of any unforeseen problems arising. Entrants will be informed should this happen.
24. Entry to this competition signifies acceptance of these terms and conditions which include the competition instructions and rules.

DATA DISCLOSURE:

Your information will be held by the RCS; all information will be treated confidentially. Your details will not be passed on to any third parties. Your personal information will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998