



Lisker Music Foundation

~Music with a Story~



2020 Composition Challenge

COVID-19: THROUGH A PANDEMIC

Lisker Music Foundation (LMF) is a passionate non-profit organization which strives to support young artists by offering them the platform to showcase their brilliant abilities, while simultaneously infusing the community with world class music making. We are very excited to announce the **3rd Annual Composition Challenge!**

The Challenge

Compose a work for String Quartet exploring the human experience as it makes its way through a global pandemic.

2020 will go down in history as the year of COVID-19, a global pandemic which left no person unaffected. But it is in times of turmoil and hardship when the greatest works of art are produced, because it is only through the arts that we can truly capture the essence of what people are experiencing at such moments.

Exploring the Theme

Through this challenge we wish for composers to explore different aspects of the pandemic's impact. From the time leading up to it, when some were afraid, some disregarded the possibility of such an event or were in disbelief – to being in the midst of it – handling the rise in case numbers, rise in death numbers, eventual social lockdowns as the governments across the country and world tried to make the right decisions.

We wish to explore the obvious negatives, but also the possibility of positives and potential sources of inspiration – the forced confrontation with our own personal lives, our dependence on work and distractions, and the relationships which we took for granted. Explore the evolution of society as a whole, the experience within a household – the strains on families – as well as the emotions that pass through the individual as they start the pandemic, live through the pandemic, and exit out of it. Fear, stress, anxiety, hope, boredom, positivity, love, compassion, etc.

Some possible approaches would be:

1. Separate before, during, after the pandemic into movements
2. Focus on Society as a whole
3. Focus on 1 family's experience
4. Focus on 1 individual
5. Focus on one singular event or aspect that occurred during the pandemic
6. Depict in some way how an individual or society as a whole evolved having dealt with the pandemic.

These are just ideas to help guide you, but are by no means limitations with which you can approach this challenge. Discover your own idea which represents your personal style and approach.

Prize
\$1000

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A premier performance of the original work in the LMF 2020-2021 Concert Season, if COVID 19 guidelines permit

Prize is sponsored by United Realty Group

Eligibility

- Applicants must be 40 years old or younger as of December 1th, 2020
- Work must be written for String Quartet
- Composition must not exceed 10 minutes in length
- One work per applicant

Evaluation Factors

Technique

- Organization of pitch elements (such as melody, harmony, and counterpoint)
- Organization of rhythmic elements
- Formal design
- Accuracy and clarity of notation
- Appropriate writing for instruments and/or voices

Musicality

- Stylistic coherence (regardless of the particular style)
- Effective handling of unity/variety and tension/release
- Effective use of dynamics, articulations, and expression marks
- Interaction of all of the elements (atmosphere, mood, direction, and flow of the music)

Originality

- Refers to aspects of the piece that reveal the composer's individual "voice" and distinguish the piece from a musical exercise or a direct imitation of another piece
- The ultimate effectiveness in delivering the story and inspiration of the Challenge; referring to the idea, background, impact, and development.

Submission Guideline

- Application for the Composition Challenge must be received by December 1st, 2020 (11:59 PM CST).
- Bio is no longer than 300 words. High-Definition Picture must be attached.
- The application with computer-generated PDF score and MIDI file must be submitted online or attached to email.
- Proof of age (copy of a passport, state issued ID, birth certificate, etc)
- Essay (1-Page Max) describing your work, and how you approached integrating the outlined challenge into your creative process, and its outcome.
- The chosen composition is not subject to change.
- Plagiarism of copyrighted material is illegal. It is the responsibility of the composer to assure that music submitted is not copyrighted. If any elements of the composition entry are copyrighted, it is the responsibility of the composer to secure permission for use of those elements.

Results

- The winning work will be announced via email no later than the end of December, 2020.

- The winner will receive a Cash Award and a diploma in the mail.
- The jury decision is final and not to be discussed.
- The LMF reserves the right to use photos and videos taken during the concert performance, recorded prior to the stage performance, promotion company's future events, and publish them on its website or social networks.

Ways to Submit

Please view application for checklist to be sure your submission is complete

Online: Provide a link to DropBox, Google Drive, or other site from which we can download your materials.

****All materials must be received by December 1st, 2020**

You are encouraged to ask questions about any aspect of this challenge.

We are happy to answer your emails, speak with you on the phone to provide any additional direction or instruction that might help you produce a piece of music you are proud of!

For more info:

ekelner@liskermusicfoundation.org | (847) 272-7003

APPLICATION FORM

Deadline: December 1st, 2020

Personal Information:

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Primary e-mail: _____

Education School(s): _____

Degrees Earned if Any (if Pre-College, write N/A): _____

Teacher/Private Instructor Name: _____

CONSENT:

Typing the names in the below constitutes consent by each party.

Student Electronic Consent * _____

Parent/Guardian Electronic Consent * _____

Teacher Consent * _____

I agree that I have read the guidelines & requirements set forth. *

I agree