



2026 COMPETITION FOR YOUNG COMPOSERS

Angel City Chorale (“ACC”), a 180 voice community choir in Los Angeles, California, is thrilled to announce the 2026 “Competition for Young Composers.” This exciting opportunity invites emerging choral composers, aged 18 to 30, to craft an original choral piece for ACC, with a chance to win a \$3,500 award. The winning composition may also be performed by ACC, offering a unique platform to showcase their talent.

THEME: The theme of the 2026 Competition is “Turning Point.”

Composers are encouraged to explore pivotal moments when a life, a community or a world changes direction.

Personal Reckoning

A moment when something no longer works. Choosing to leave, to begin again, to heal, to risk, or to believe in oneself.

Moral Courage

A decision to stand up, speak out, or act despite fear. A moment when conviction reshapes a life or influences history.

World in Motion

Events that alter the course of communities or nations: revolutions, disasters, cultural shifts, environmental change, or collective awakening.

Whether intimate or historic, quiet or dramatic, Turning Point invites reflection on the moment everything shifts and the choices and outcomes that follow. Through music, composers are encouraged to capture that pivotal instant when direction changes and identity, destiny, or history is transformed.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To participate in the competition, applicants must satisfy the following criteria, which are subject to modification at the ACC’s sole discretion:

1. **Age & Eligibility:** Applicants must be at least eighteen (18) and no older than thirty (30) years of age at the time of submission. The competition is open to both U.S.-based and international applicants.

Finalists will be required to provide valid government-issued photo identification verifying their date of birth. Such identification will be used solely for eligibility verification purposes.

Prize payments are subject to applicable United States tax laws and reporting requirements. Winners will be required to complete all necessary tax documentation (including, as applicable, IRS Forms W-9 or W-8BEN) prior to receiving any prize funds. All prizes may be subject to applicable withholding, and winners are solely responsible for any taxes owed in their jurisdiction.

If participation in any aspect of the competition or prize requires travel to or performance within the United States, the winner is solely responsible for obtaining and maintaining any necessary visas, travel authorizations, or other documentation required to participate.

The organization reserves the right to structure, delay, or withhold payment of any prize as necessary to comply with applicable laws, regulations, or administrative requirements.

2. **Originality:** Submitted composition (the “Composition”) must be an original work, newly composed for this competition, and not previously published or performed, or an arrangement of another melody or tune.
3. **Text Source:** The text used in the composition must be an original work, or from the public domain (proof required), or, if copyrighted by another, accompanied by a letter of permission from the copyright owner. If the winning composition includes text from the public domain or copyrighted material, the composer must provide a signed and notarized statement verifying its eligibility for use.
4. **Non-Infringement:** The Composition’s music and text may not infringe on any U.S. laws or regulations, including, without limitation, copyright or licensing laws.
5. **Submission Limit:** Each contestant may only submit one entry per year (a “Submission”). Previous winners of the Competition for Young Composers are not eligible to apply.

COMPOSITION GUIDELINES:

1. **Voicing:** Primarily SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). While part divisi is allowed, excessive use is discouraged.
2. **Accompaniment:** The piece may be a cappella or accompanied by one to two instruments (e.g., SATB choir with piano or SATB choir with vibraphone and hand drum).
3. **Vocal Ranges:**

Soprano: B3 – C6 Alto: G3 – G5 Tenor: C3 – B4 Bass: E2 – E4
4. **Length:** Approximately 3 to 5 minutes.

5. **Accessibility and Singability:** The Composition should strike a balance between challenge and accessibility for an advanced community choir. While it should allow for moments of technical brilliance, it should not be overly difficult to the point where it limits the choir's ability to perform it expressively. The Composition should allow singers to express the text comfortably and with emotional depth. It could include some advanced choral techniques, but it should not be overly esoteric or atonal.
6. **Language:** The text may be sacred or secular and can be in any language. For non-English text, include a translation and pronunciation guide (IPA preferable).

COMPETITION TIMELINE OVERVIEW:

1. **Submission Portal Opens:** April 1, 2026
2. **Competition Entry Deadline:** September 1, 2026
3. **Adjudication:** September 2 – October 31, 2026
4. **Winner Notification:** November 2 - 6, 2026
5. **Official Announcement:** December 5 & 6, 2026, at the Angel City Chorale Concert in Los Angeles, California.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

1. **Submission Materials:** All Submissions must be received by 11:59 pm on September 1, 2026 (PDT) and adhere to the following requirements:

SCORE

All scores must be submitted in PDF format, 8.5" x 11", and contain the title and length of the Composition on the front page (**do not include the composer's name on the title page**) and each page numbered. Upon Submission, each entry will receive an identifying tag to ensure anonymity.

The front page of the score must also indicate whether the text used is original, from the public domain or copyrighted.

The Composition's scores/parts must be clear and ready for duplication and performance, using a standard electronic engraving software program (i.e. Sibelius, Finale, Dorico, etc.).

RECORDING

A .MP3 format recording (MIDI or otherwise) of the Composition must be submitted along with the score.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

If in a language other than English, provide text translation and IPA pronunciation guide.

WRITTEN STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

Optional: Applicants may include a written statement (up to 300 words) about the Composition, the compositional process, or other relevant information about the piece for potential marketing or promotional purposes. The statement will not be shared with the judges during the evaluation process.

- 2. File Name:** The file name for the PDF score and accompanying .MP3 audio file should be formatted as follows: "Title of Composition_the duration of the Composition (in minutes and seconds)" (e.g., "Turning Point_4.50").
- 3. Upload:** all Submissions and required materials must be uploaded using the submission portal at angelcitychorale.org/composer-competition. Any emailed links will be disregarded, and email attachments will not be opened.

Applicants will receive confirmation receipt for their Submission. Submissions not conforming to the above requirements will be automatically rejected and the applicant will be notified accordingly.

If you encounter technical issues or need to request an alternative method of submission, please email: composercontest@angelcitychorale.org.

EVALUATION AND JUDGING:

1. All Submissions will be anonymized by an independent third party upon receipt and throughout the adjudication process to prevent any conflicts of interest or perceived conflicts of interest arising during the judging process.
2. A panel of industry professionals will conduct a blind evaluation of all Submissions and select the competition's finalists.
3. Finalists will be notified upon selection by the judges. Upon being selected, finalists must complete an age verification process through a provider designated and paid for by the competition. Successful completion of this verification is required to advance to the final round of the competition.
4. Jury deliberations will occur between September 2 and October 31, 2026.
5. The winning contestant is anticipated to be notified the week of November 2, 2026, provided the judges select a winner.

6. The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence or feedback concerning the panel's decision will be provided. Emails requesting feedback will be disregarded.

PRIZE, PERFORMANCE & PUBLICATION:

1. The winner of the competition, if selected, will receive a \$3,500 cash award. Prize payments are subject to applicable U.S. tax laws and reporting requirements.
2. If a Composition is selected as the winner, Angel City Chorale ("ACC") shall have the exclusive right to present the world premiere of the Composition within one (1) year of the public announcement of the winner (the "Exclusivity Period"). During the Exclusivity Period, the composer shall not publicly perform, authorize, or permit any other party to publicly perform, record or publish the Composition without the express written consent of ACC.
3. The winning composer grants ACC an irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free license to record, reproduce, distribute, stream, broadcast, and otherwise exploit audio and/or video recordings of ACC's performances of the Composition in any media now known or later developed.
4. The winning composer agrees that any publication of the winning Composition shall include the designation:

"Winner of the 2026 Angel City Chorale Competition for Young Composers"

ACC shall have the right to reference and promote the Composition using this designation in perpetuity.

5. In the event ACC presents the premiere of the winning Composition, the winner will be eligible to receive reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses, up to \$1,000, to attend the premiere performance in Los Angeles, California, subject to ACC's travel reimbursement policies.
6. ACC reserves the right not to select a winner and shall have no obligation to premiere, perform, record, publish, reproduce, or distribute any submitted Composition.
7. By submitting a Composition, entrants grant ACC a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide license to use excerpts of the submitted Composition, the composer's name, likeness, biography, and submitted materials for purposes of competition administration, promotion, marketing, archival documentation, and fundraising. This includes the perpetual right to perform the work live or via any media, including online and social media platforms, in any location and at any time, without any further compensation or royalties due to the composer or any other rights holder of the Composition.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The foregoing Eligibility Requirements may be amended, revised or changed at any time and in any fashion in ACC's sole discretion.

By using this website, electronically signing the submission, or by submitting your files through the submission portal, you agree that you have read, understand and agree to be bound by the preceding Eligibility Guidelines of the contest, our Terms and Conditions, and our Privacy Policy, and irrevocably grant Angel City Chorale the right to use the Composition for the purposes outlined above. All inquiries should be sent to composercontest@angelcitychorale.org.