



## COMPETITION FOR YOUNG COMPOSERS

Angel City Chorale (“ACC”), a 180 voice community choir in Los Angeles, California, is thrilled to announce the launch of its “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:** For its inaugural year, the theme of the competition is “The Ground We Share.”

Participants are encouraged to explore themes such as:

### **Shared Space**

Representing the physical land we all inhabit, as a global community.

### **Common Humanity**

Symbolizing the shared experiences, resiliencies, and triumphs that connect us despite our differences.

### **Cultural Heritage**

Reflecting the values of empathy and the bonds that ground us in culture, faith and nature.

### **Synergy**

A metaphor for creative collaboration or negotiation - the fertile ground where ideas and relationships take root and grow.

Whether you interpret it literally or figuratively, **The Ground We Share** is an invitation to reflect on what we build and experience together, and how music can shape our shared journey.

### **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 & Residency:** Applicants must be at least 18 and no older than 30 at the time of submission and present a valid passport or U.S. state-issued identification verifying their age if chosen as a finalist. If an applicant is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, their visa status must allow them to work in the United States in order to be eligible to receive any U.S. based prize.

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”).

#### **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**:
  - o Soprano: B3 – C6
  - o Alto: G3 – G5
  - o Tenor: C3 – B4
  - o 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, 2025
2. **Competition Entry Deadline:** September 1, 2025
3. **Adjudication:** September 2 – October 31, 2025
4. **Winner Notification:** November 1, 2025
5. **Official Announcement:** December 6 & 7, 2025, 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, 2025 (PDT) and adhere to the following requirements:
  - o **SCORE**
    1. 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.
    2. The front page of the score must also indicate whether the text used is original, from the public domain or copyrighted.
    3. 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.).
  - o **RECORDING**
    1. A .MP3 format recording (MIDI or otherwise) of the Composition must be submitted along with the score.
  - o **PRONUNCIATION GUIDE**
    1. If in a language other than English, provide text translation and IPA pronunciation guide.

o **WRITTEN STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)**

1. Optional: Applicant's 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., "CommonGround\_4.50").
3. **Upload:** all Submissions and required materials must be uploaded using the submission portal at [angelcitychorale.org/composer-competition](http://angelcitychorale.org/composer-competition). Any emailed links will be disregarded, and email attachments will not be opened.

Applicants will receive confirmation of receipt for both their application and final 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](mailto:composercontest@angelcitychorale.org).

**EVALUATION AND JUDGING:**

1. All applications and 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, 2025.
5. The winning contestant is anticipated to be notified on November 1, 2025, 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 AND PERFORMANCE:**

1. The winner of the competition, if selected, will receive a \$3,500 award.
2. If a Composition is selected as the winner, the Angel City Chorale shall have the exclusive right to premiere the Composition within one year of the public announcement of the winner (the "Exclusivity Period"). The composer shall not publicly perform, or permit or assist any other party to publicly perform, the Composition prior to the expiration of the Exclusivity Period without the express written consent of the Angel City Chorale. ACC shall also be granted an irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free license to record and release the Composition in any format whatsoever.
3. In the event ACC chooses to premiere the winning Composition, the winner will receive up to \$1,000 for travel expenses to attend the premiere performance by the Angel City Chorale in Los Angeles, California.
4. ACC shall have no obligation to select a winner or premiere, perform, record, reproduce or distribute a winning Composition, if any.
5. By submitting the Composition to Angel City Chorale, the winning contestant grants a non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free, paid-up, perpetual, and worldwide right and license to publicly perform, record, copy, distribute, display, translate, and otherwise use the composition in any manner whatsoever and without limitation, in public perpetuity. 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](mailto:composercontest@angelcitychorale.org).