

**University of Notre Dame Children's Choir Liturgical
Composition Commission Competition 2019**

Hymn Competition

About the Choir and Text

The Notre Dame Children's Choir Liturgical Choir is an ensemble comprised of child treble choristers (ages 10-16) and adult lay clerks (alto, tenor, bass) that leads music for mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame and vespers at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto at Saint Mary's College (Holy Cross). Our choristers are trained in the English cathedral tradition.

The hymn competition text below (four verses) is intended for use during vespers. The text may not be altered in any way without the permission of the competition sponsor (see contact information below) and all four verses must be set to music. The text or its adaptation below are equally eligible for the hymn competition

Text:

O Mystery of night's horizon setting,
Grant us thy peace while midst our sleep we dream,
As twilight's shadows spread across your expanse,
Dusk's ev'ning embers fortel morn's bright dawn.

O Steadfast Love at life's end bid us welcome,
Open thine arms embrace us with thy peace,
Let death's harsh grasp be but a tribulation,
Thy cross our vict'ry over fault and grave.

O Holy Spirit we, your people, languish,
Led by our envy, pride, and discontent,
Help us reach far across divides that break us,
Renew our hearts with empathy and love.

O Tranquil Night, safe watch o'er all who slumber,
Restore in us thy hope and amity,
May we rise again awash with promise,
To share thy love with rival, foe, and friend.

- Anonymous

Alternative Text:

O Mystery of night's horizon setting,
Grant us your peace while midst our sleep we dream;
As twilight's shadows spread across the distance,
Dusk's lowering embers promise morn's bright dawn.

O Steadfast Love, at life's end bid us welcome,
Spread wide your arms, embrace us with your peace,
Let death's harsh grasp be but a tribulation,
Your cross our vict'ry over fault and grave.

O Holy Spirit, we your people languish,
Led by our envy, pride, and discontent:
Help us reach far across divides that break us,
Renew our hearts with empathy and love.

O Tranquil Night, safe watch o'er all who slumber,
Restore in us your hope and amity,
And may we rise again awash with promise,
To share your love with rival, foe, and friend.

- Adaptation by Jeffrey Cooper

Musical Guidelines:

- The new hymn tune for will be for congregational use
- The hymn tune at minimum must include a unison melody with descant; SATB vocal harmonization with descant preferred
- The music should be in the traditional hymnic style of the Episcopal 1982 hymnal, the New English Hymnal, or in the style of the English Cathedral hymn
 - Examples of this style include the hymn tunes: HIGHWOOD, JERUSALEM, HELMSLEY
- Preferred Melody Range: D4-E5, Descant may reach G5

Prize:

The winning entry will receive \$500 and have their hymn sung by the Notre Dame Children's Choir. A second-place winner will receive \$250. One entry per applicant.

Deadline:

Entries will be accepted between 8:00 AM EST on August 15, 2018 and 11:59 PM EST on January 31, 2019. The winner will be announced by February 15, 2019.

Submission Format:

Each hymn must be submitted in a format that is easily viewable. To ensure this, it is required that the entry be submitted as either a standard PDF or high resolution JPG file. It is preferred that music scores are typeset using a music software program such as Finale or Sibelius, however, scanned manuscripts will be accepted providing they are legible.

Submit your entry to Missy DeClercq at mdeclercq@nd.edu. The email subject line should read "ND Children's Liturgical Choir Composition Commission Competition 2019." Your name should NOT appear on the score itself since a blind jury will judge the competition. Please include your name and contact information in the body of the email.

Dedication:

The winning hymn must be dedicated to the Notre Dame Children's Choir with the text, "Commissioned by the Notre Dame Children's Choir; Dr. Mark Doerries, Artistic Director."

Eligibility:

All United States residents in the 50 states over the age of 18 are eligible to enter the competition. Entry is free of charge.

The following individuals are not eligible: employees, collaborators, directors, officers and contractors of the Sponsor, its advertising, fulfillment and public relations agencies and any other agencies involved in the administration, development and fulfillment of this Contest, and the immediate family members and those living in the same households of each.

Evaluation:

The winner will be selected by a panel of judges consisting of church musicians, composers, scholars, and staff members of Notre Dame Campus Ministry, Sacred Music at Notre Dame, and other sacred music institutions in close collaboration with the Notre Dame Children's Choir.

Questions:

Questions regarding the Hymn Competition may be sent to: Dr. Mark Doerries - mdoerries@nd.edu.

