



NJ High School Composition Contest

Harmonium's Annual New Jersey High School Student Composition Contest

seeks to encourage young composers and create new repertoire. The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation has said "this contest fills a niche in Music Education in the state of New Jersey and offers clear goals for musically talented students to strive towards, introduces them to artistic peers and musical mentors, and for the winners, provides a financial incentive and a much-coveted CD recording by the Chorus." Chorus America's 2009 Education Outreach Award was presented to 19 Harmonium Choral Society for this contest. This award is presented to a Chorus America member ensemble whose education outreach program demonstrates mission-based program development, viable music education, effective management and fiscal integrity, a commitment to artistic excellence, and a collaboration that is sustainable, beneficial, and meaningful for all partners. "Most inspiringly, most of Harmonium's past contest winners have stayed involved in music and most have continued to compose," said Joyce Garrett, founder of the Washington Youth Choir, and the award's presenter. "The contest engages young people, builds bridges within the education and performing arts communities in New Jersey, and contributes to the vitality of our art form." "The exemplary leadership demonstrated by Harmonium and other deserving individuals and organizations serves as a model for all choruses as they strive for success in their communities," said Ann Meier Baker, president and CEO of Chorus America.

Where Are They Now?

1998- *Lord, There's a Fire*, Brian Driscoll, Mount Olive High School. Brian's work was published by Alfred Publishing after he won our contest. He went on to graduate with a degree in Music Theory from Montclair State and was active as a composer. He is currently a software Consultant at IT Solutions Consulting, Inc.

1999- *Morning Hymn*, Daniel Adamczyk, Piscataway High School. Daniel won in 1999, after being the runner-up in 1998. He graduated from Westminster Choir College in 2003 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Theory and Composition, and was the recipient of the John Finley Williamson Scholarship for Music Composition. From 2003 to 2009, he was Director of Music at St. Michael's Church in Cranford, NJ. In September 2009, he began studies at Ernest Mario College of Pharmacy at Rutgers and plans to graduate in 2013 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. He still works part-time at St. Paul's Church in Morris Plains as Organist and Choir Director, hoping to keep music in his life as he begins a new career as a pharmacist.

The Harmonium contest was a great experience as a high school student, as it afforded me unique opportunities most students don't get until they are in college. The opportunity to write music to a specific theme, get critiqued by

active professionals in the field and see the music come to life was not only exhilarating to experience as a teenager, but valuable to my musical development in providing a practical, hands-on application of the musical process that gave my skills an extra boost. It was also wonderful to experience the support and encouragement of all those involved--the judges, director and choir members--and helped lay a solid foundation for what I would experience in my studies going forward.

2000- *E Kounia Tou Theou (The Cradle of God)*, Stefan Swanson*, Madison High School. Stefan is currently studying for a Ph.D. in composition at Rutgers University while continuing to write for both film and the concert hall. *Gun Hill Road*, a film he scored last year, was selected for the Sundance Film Festival. Shortly thereafter, it was picked up for distribution and was shown all around the world.

There's nothing more important than the encouragement one receives early in life and the Harmonium Classical Choral Society's Student Composition Contest was that encouragement for me. It told me, "You can do this," and from then on, it's been non-stop music for 10+ years. None of my major musical accomplishments would have been possible without my Harmonium experience.

2001- *Rumour*, Chris Giarmo, Paramus High School. Chris lives in Brooklyn and works as a freelance graphic designer. He still composes for Bid Dance Theater in NYC.

2002- *This Bird of Dawning Singeth*, Kevin Clark, Princeton High School. Kevin graduated from Peabody Conservatory and lives in Jersey City where he is a composer, a producer of creative projects for film, theater and web, and Communications Manager at New Music USA.

I write music that tells stories. I use literature, theater, marimbas, cellos and plenty of jokes. I also blog about the future of the arts. And cocktails. Several of my pieces have evolved into films, which I've produced with the help of a group of talented filmmakers. These include *The Seafarer*, an experimental film adaptation of my piece for solo cello, and *Cucumbers & Gin* for solo violin, which was on the front page of Kickstarter.com. I serve on the board of the Exapno New Music Community Center, which provides to its members space to compose, rehearse and perform in Brooklyn Heights. As a student at Peabody, I created the Junior Bach program, in which Peabody student composers teach composition lessons at an inner-city middle school for talented, low-income students.

2003- *This Day*, Heidi Lam, Princeton Day School. (unable to contact)

2004- *The Rain*, Kyle Boatwright, Princeton Day School. Kyle graduated Cum Laude from Amherst College in 2009 and has since produced and directed two productions of her original award-winning musical, *God Is Dead*. Recently, she played Mimi in "Rent" and Logainne in "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," both at the Exit 7 Theatre in Ludlow, MA.

2005- *Sing to the Lord*, Dale Trumbore*, Chatham High School. Dale is a Los Angeles-based composer whose compositions have been performed by ensembles including the Kronos Quartet, ACME, the New York Virtuoso Singers, the UMD Chamber Singers, the Boston New Music Initiative, and the USC Thornton Symphony. She has also received commissions, grants and awards from the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), Chanticleer, Women Sing, and the American Composer's Forum. In September 2011, Trumbore released her debut CD of art-songs, *Snow White Turns Sixty*, featuring soprano Gillian Hollis. Hear more of Trumbore's music at daletrumbore.com.

2006- *A Shropshire Lament* & 2007- *How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place*, Jonathan MacMillan, Vernon Township High School. Jonathan is graduating from Yale College, with a degree in Computer Science and Music. He will be moving to New York City in the fall to work for Google as a software engineer. Jonathan continues to play the violin, viola, piano, and now harpsichord, and hopes to continue playing each of these when he arrives in New York City. He is very grateful for the Harmonium contest, and the experience he had working with the ensemble and hearing his pieces performed in front of a large audience!

2008- *The Song of Wandering Aengus*, Noah Berg, Millburn High School. Noah graduated from the University of Rochester, having been director, manager and arranger for his college group, the Midnight Ramblers. He won best male collegiate arrangement CASA 2010 for his recording of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" (arrangements also nominated for best album, best song and best solo). He will be touring with the professional a cappella group Hyannis Sound this summer, then working for Liquid Fifth, a recording company based in North Carolina with a large presence in college a cappella recordings.

2009- *Sapientia Pacis*, Michael Rosin, Westfield High School. Michael will soon be starting his third year as a Music Composition major at the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University. The MSU Singers performed one of his pieces this past semester, and his church choir will be performing another piece in the fall.

Ever since receiving first place in the Harmonium contest back in 2009, I have actively continued to enter contests and get my music performed - especially choral music. I distinctly remember that night 3 years ago, when Harmonium first performed my piece. To this day, NONE of the other recordings of my music come even close to being as professional as Harmonium's was. That night of music was spectacular, magical and most likely the best night of music I have ever experienced. I will never forget it.
Thank you Harmonium ♪

2010- *Hark! Hark! The Lark* & 2011- *Aspiration*, Tim Laciano*, New Providence High School. Tim recently completed his first year as an undergraduate music major at Yale University, where he is a member of the Yale Glee Club and the Assistant Conductor of the Davenport Pops Orchestra. He has been a music director or musician for various theater productions at Yale including *Sweeney Todd* and *Cabaret*; he composed incidental music for an adaptation of John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*; and next fall, he will conduct the Yale Dramatic Association's mainstage production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. This year, he studied musical theater composition with Josh Rosenblum and musical theater performance and music direction with Andrew Gerle. Tim remains an advocate and creator of new choral

music. He is indebted to Harmonium, the contest, and its sponsors for being the impetus for all of his compositional endeavors, giving him the invaluable experience of hearing his work performed, and helping to continue his education in music.

RUNNERS UP

Benjamin Schroeder* joined Harmonium in 1996 while he was still in high school, making him the first in an ever-growing list of Harmonium members with this distinction. He holds bachelor's degrees in music and physics from the University of Rochester. Schroeder serves as music director of Abiding Peace Lutheran Church in Budd Lake and works as a freelance editor for educational publishers.

Melinda Riley (1999) has a graduate degree in viola from Butler University and is active as a teacher and performer. "Being selected as a Harmonium young composer was a great honor. It was thrilling to have a piece of mine premiered and performed by a professional ensemble. My musical career has led me towards the performance aspect of the music field, so I haven't been composing for quite some time; however, I do a lot of arranging for my orchestra class at IPS #43 (Indianapolis Public School)."

Yui Kitamura (2000) is a versatile composer of solo, chamber, and orchestral music in various styles, and her works have been performed at such venues as New York's Lincoln Center and Joe's Pub, Berlin's Akademie der Künste, Kiev's National Catholic Cathedral, and Tokyo's Sumida Triphony Hall and Suntory Hall. She was nominated for a 2011 Hollywood Music in Media Award in the classical/orchestral genre. She is a co-founder and the artistic director of Multicultural Sonic Evolution (MuSE), a non-profit organization that creates a multicultural environment through sound and collaborations with other fields of art such as dance, theater, and film. She holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School and a Masters of Fine Arts from New York University (Tisch School of Arts).

Christine Webb Woodbury (2004) is a violist who majored in music at Smith College and now attends graduate school at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Thomas Barth (2007) is currently studying conducting at Boston Conservatory after graduating Magna Cum Laude from Boston University with degrees in Music Theory and Composition. Aside from the Boston Conservatory Chorale, he has also conducted the MIT Concert Choir and Chamber Chorus this past year and will be applying to doctoral programs around the country this upcoming fall. He composes freelance works and will be premiering a Euphonium Concerto at Rutgers next year.

**part of 2012 anniversary commission in honor of David Hoadley's many years of service*