

# Harmonium

Choral Society

## Where Are They Now?

*As we approach the 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our High School Student Composition Contest, let's see where life has taken our past winners from 1998 through today...*

1998- **Brian Driscoll**, *Lord, There's a Fire*

- The first winning piece was published by Alfred Music. Brian is a composer of secular and sacred choral works for ensembles of all sizes and levels of ability. He lives in Bensalem, PA. (Although now out of print, you can listen to *Lord, There's a Fire* here: <https://www.stantons.com/sheet-music/title/lord-theres-a-fire/18665/>.)

1999- **Daniel Adamczyk**, *Morning Hymn*

- Daniel was the music director at St. Michael Church in Cranford from 2003 to 2009 and organist and choir director at St. Paul's in Morris Plains from 2010 to 2018. After graduating from Westminster Choir College, he went on to obtain a PharmD at Rutgers University and is currently a senior medical director at BGB Group.

2000- **Stefan Swanson**, *E Kounia Tou Theou (The Cradle of God)*

- Stefan, originally from Madison, received his PhD in music composition from Rutgers. He recently finished a 2-year visiting assistant professor position at Ashland University in Ohio where he created a music industry track for their music department. He now teaches both undergrad and graduate film music classes at NYU. Says Stefan: "I am also, of course, still composing both film and concert music. I currently have three films on Amazon and one on Hulu, and was commissioned by the Ashland Symphony Orchestra to compose a symphony in honor of the retirement of long-time ASO director Arie Lipsky."

2001- **Chris Giarmo**, *Rumour*

- Chris, who graduated from Paramus High School, is a sound designer, actor, singer, and choreographer most recently seen in David Byrne's *American Utopia* as backing vocalist/dance & vocal captain/additional choreography. He also performs in New Orleans as Anti-Consumerist Drag Queen YouTube Beauty Guru/Drag Performer/Karaoke Hostess Kimberly Clark, with 75,000 subscribers and over 5 million views on 150+ videos on YouTube. More of his projects and music can be found at: <http://chrisgiarmo.com/index.html>.

2002- **Kevin Clark**, *This Bird of Dawning Singeth*

- Per Kevin: "Right now I live in Seattle and work as a software leadership consultant with VMware. I compose less these days but sit on the board of the Live Music Project and advise arts grantmaking organizations."

2003- **Heidi Lam**, *This Day*

- Heidi received her PhD in anthropology at Yale. Her dissertation was on immersive culturally themed spaces. Heidi writes: "My music training was useful during my fifteen months of fieldwork at a Japanese 17<sup>th</sup> century historical-themed park. I [investigated] how the senses, including sounds and music, are used to communicate traditional Japanese culture to domestic consumers and overseas tourists."

2004- **Kyle Boatwright**, *The Rain*

- Kyle has a degree in music composition from Amherst College and is a freelance actor and writer in Massachusetts. More information about Kyle can be found at: <https://www.nohoarts.org/featured-artist/category/featured-artist-kyle-boatwright>.

2005- **Dale Trumbore**, *Sing to the Lord*

- Hailed by *The New York Times* for her "soaring melodies and beguiling harmonies," Dale Trumbore's compositions have been commissioned, awarded, and performed widely in the U.S. and internationally by a diverse group of outstanding ensembles since she won the Composition Contest 15 years ago. *How to Go On*, Choral Arts Initiative's album of Trumbore's choral works, debuted at #6 on Billboard's Traditional Classical Chart. Trumbore holds a dual degree in music composition and English from the University of Maryland and a Master of Music degree in composition from the University of Southern California. As well as being a wonderful composer, Dale is an accomplished author and writes many of her own texts, as well as lots of essays on composing. She recently published the book *Staying Composed: Overcoming Anxiety and Self-Doubt within a Creative Life*.

2006- **Jonathan MacMillan**, *A Shropshire Lament*  
& 2007- *How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place*

- Jonathan writes: “I still live in the Bay Area of California. I got married in 2018...and I work on the Google Translate team now, helping to build the Google Translate app for iOS. I’m still hoping to try my hand at composition again, but life has been a roller coaster lately! Up until the pandemic, I was playing in a quartet of people from the church that I attend, but we haven’t had a chance to play together for about a year now. Hopefully the social isolation will come to an end soon and musicians will be able to play together again!” [thankfully, it has.]

2008- **Noah Berg**, *The Song of Wandering Aengus*

- Noah graduated from the University of Rochester with a degree in music composition in 2012. He now works for Brainly, an education tech company, and lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Kelsie. He is still actively arranging and has several TV credits to his name, including *Thomas the Tank Engine* and the *American Girl Doll* series. He is also actively performing, composing, and arranging.

2009- **Michael Rosin**, *Sapientia Pacis*

- Michael is a music historian, writer, educator, and professional keyboardist. Holding two degrees in music composition and theory, he is active as a music scholar, writing and producing content for WQXR (New York's Classical Music Radio Station) and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. As a composer, Michael has received three commissions in the past few years and performed in an online new music intensive in June 2021. Recently, Michael became the musicologist-in-residence for Music in the Somerset Hills, curating video podcasts with the artists. He has brought most of his efforts online by producing articles, videos, and a podcast called “The Music that Speaks.” For more information on his courses and on-demand content, visit his website: [www.michaelrosin.com](http://www.michaelrosin.com).

2010- **Tim Laciano**, *Hark! Hark! The Lark*  
& 2011- *Aspiration*

- Tim recently spent three years traveling the country conducting and playing keyboard for the national tours of *Hello, Dolly!* and *The King and I*. Prior to the pandemic, he was the interim director of the Princeton University Trego Singers and a music director advisor for Princeton’s theater program. Tim holds a Bachelor of Arts from Yale University and pursued graduate studies in conducting at the University of Michigan. He is a proud member of the American Federation of Musicians Local 802 and a proud rescue dog owner.

2012- **Jasmine Gelber**, *Nightingales*

- Jasmine studied music at Columbia University, Juilliard, and Yale School of Music. She is currently involved in peer counseling and based in New York City.

2013- **Fraser Weist**, *Wind of the Western Sea*

& 2014- *Musica Dei Donum Optimi*

- Fraser graduated from Harvard in 2018 with a joint degree in music and computer science, and now lives in NYC working as a software engineer at Bloomberg. He recently released an EP of original songs.

2015- **Zachary Catron**, *Fire Unfelt*

& 2016- *The Cold Wind*

- Zachary is a composer and lyricist at New York University's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. His full-length musical, *The Battle, Not the War*, premiered at Feinstein's/54 Below in June 2019 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Future premieres of his orchestral works (delayed due to COVID-19) include *Fathers, Sons, and Daughters Too* (Mannes Orchestra) and original music for the play *War Stories* (The Tank NYC). His opera-in-development, *Renfield*, has won the Alsop Entrepreneurship Award.

2017- **Theo Trevisan**, *Lay Waste*

- Theo, a graduate of Princeton University, writes: "Compositionally, the most interesting and relevant thing I did recently was write a piece called *Missa Brevissima* for the Antioch Chamber Ensemble, when they came to sing with the Glee Club in late February (right before Covid). I've also helped Dan Trueman develop bitKavier (a prepared digital piano app)." The Harmonium Chamber Singers also performed Theo's piece *November* in 2016 (the Runner-Up that year). More about Theo can be found at: <https://soundcloud.com/theo-trevisan>.

2018- **Reshma Kopparapu**, *The River, My Soul*

- Reshma majored in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Southern California. In Fall 2021, she and a group of students developed a smart lock system with face mask detection capabilities. Most recently, she has taken up learning acoustic guitar and is excited to see where else her love of music will take her in the future.

2019 (tie)- **Henry Marinovic**, *Young Night Thought*

- Henry Marinovic, an accomplished pianist, is a graduate of Madison High School. He sang bass in his school chorus, played keyboards with the Madison Marching Dodgers, and sang with Grace Church's teen male *a cappella* group The Gargoyles. From a very young age, Henry has been fascinated with theory, composition, and improvisation, and has composed many pieces for piano and strings, including several piano works that received accolades in the Eric Steiner Composition Contest conducted by NJMEA. In 2016, he performed his piano composition, *Misty Day Prelude*, at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Henry also received an Honorable Mention in the 2018 Harmonium Composition Contest.

2019 (tie)- **Wen Wen Van Der Wende**, *Hymn to Venus*

- Wen Wen majored in composition at the Hartt School, University of Hartford. Since college, they have explored composing in different media besides choral music, such as instrumental small ensemble and electronic. They plan on writing more vocal music soon and have several pieces already underway. Says Wen Wen, "I'm so happy to hear that you're continuing the composition contest. Participating was truly a highlight of high school for me."

2020- **J. Luke Soumilas**, *Dimities of Blue*

- Luke, a graduate of Haddonfield Memorial High School, majored in math education at New York University. In their free time, they compose and record original music.

2021- **Asher Sheckman**, *Alchemy*  
& 2022- *By Day*

- Asher (also the 2020 Runner-Up) is graduate of Cranford High School. He is a self-taught pianist, bassist, guitarist, drummer, arranger, and composer. In high school, he played percussion in the concert and marching band, as well as participated in the concert choir, madrigal choir, jazz band, musicals, and *a cappella* group. Music is his source of joy, and he loves to share that joy with others in any way he can.

2023- **Gabriel Tarrow**, *Wind*

- Gabriel is a sophomore at Columbia High School in Maplewood. He has been playing the piano for ten years and composing for eight years. He loves choir and choral music and has attended several summer music camps. He draws inspiration from Baroque and modern choral music.

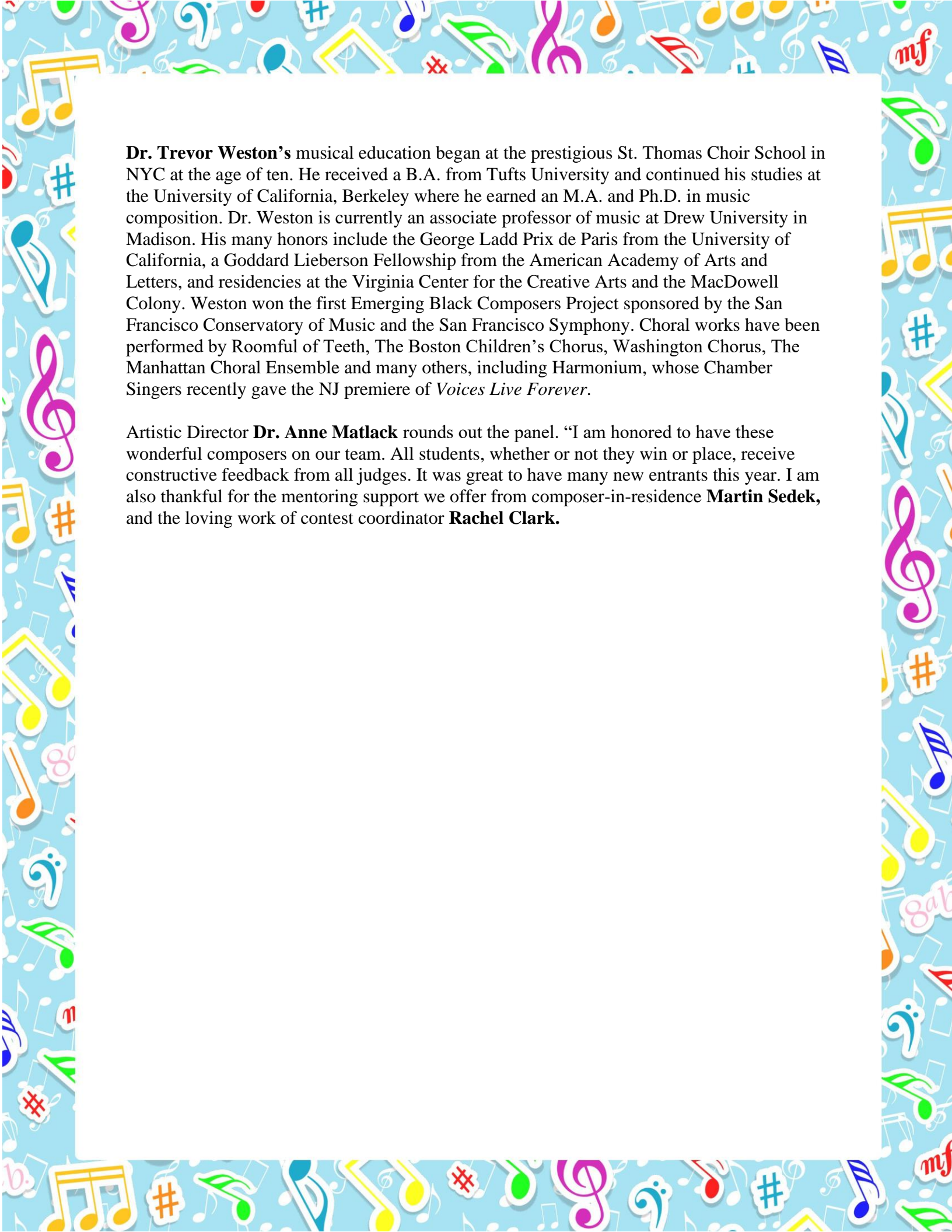
## About Our Judges

New Jersey composer **Amanda Harberg**'s work has been described by *The New York Times* as "a sultry excursion into lyricism." "She invigorates the brain and touches the soul," says composer John Corigliano; "I love her work." Harberg's music has been presented at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Verizon Hall, Symphony Center, and Bargemusic. Orchestral premieres have included performances by the Philadelphia Orchestra with Erica Peel and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Albany Symphony, the Grand Rapids Symphony, the Interlochen Philharmonic, the New Jersey Youth Symphony, and the Reno Philharmonic. Her works have been commissioned and performed by many instrumental soloists worldwide. She says:

Harmonium Choral Society has been an important part of my musical life for over a decade. Their leadership in championing new music and in heralding the next generation of composers is remarkable. I have been judging the Annual High School Choral Competition for ten years, and every year I am astounded by the incredible music being written by NJ's young composers. It's an honor to be a part of this important educational opportunity!

**Matthew Harris**' choral music is performed and recorded worldwide by major groups as well as school and community choruses. Harmonium commissioned his *A Child's Christmas in Wales* for chorus and orchestra in 2002, and performed it again last Dec. for its 20th anniversary. Choirs around the world know his many volumes of *Shakespeare Songs*. Mr. Harris has taught at Fordham University and Kingsborough College, CUNY. In 1988, he founded Harris Musicology. He currently teaches at Brooklyn College and New York City College of Technology, CUNY. Matthew has also been a judge for Harmonium's High School Choral Composition Contest the longest- for over 20 years! "The Harmonium Choral Contest is a treasured institution that helps young choral composers develop their skills, hear their works and launch their careers. I've had the honor and pleasure of serving it for over twenty years and hope to be part of its success for years to come."

**Sarah Rimkus** is an American composer who earned M.M. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, studying with Phillip Cooke and Paul Mealor. She received a B.Mus. in music composition from the University of Southern California where she developed a love of choral music while studying with Morten Lauridsen. She has received numerous awards, including the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award for *Trapped in Amber* for string orchestra, the ASCAP Foundation Leonard Bernstein Award, and the Cantus Ensemble's composition award in 2017. Her works have been performed and commissioned by musicians and ensembles on both sides of the Atlantic, including the Gesualdo Six and the Ligeti Quartet, and featured on Classic FM and BBC Scotland. She is currently an instructor at Michigan Technological University, teaching composition and music fundamentals. Harmonium commissioned and premiered her multilingual *In the beginning was the Word* in 2019.



**Dr. Trevor Weston's** musical education began at the prestigious St. Thomas Choir School in NYC at the age of ten. He received a B.A. from Tufts University and continued his studies at the University of California, Berkeley where he earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in music composition. Dr. Weston is currently an associate professor of music at Drew University in Madison. His many honors include the George Ladd Prix de Paris from the University of California, a Goddard Lieberon Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and residencies at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the MacDowell Colony. Weston won the first Emerging Black Composers Project sponsored by the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the San Francisco Symphony. Choral works have been performed by Roomful of Teeth, The Boston Children's Chorus, Washington Chorus, The Manhattan Choral Ensemble and many others, including Harmonium, whose Chamber Singers recently gave the NJ premiere of *Voices Live Forever*.

Artistic Director **Dr. Anne Matlack** rounds out the panel. "I am honored to have these wonderful composers on our team. All students, whether or not they win or place, receive constructive feedback from all judges. It was great to have many new entrants this year. I am also thankful for the mentoring support we offer from composer-in-residence **Martin Sedek**, and the loving work of contest coordinator **Rachel Clark**.