

Archbishop's Prize for New Composers

You are invited to enter the inaugural *Archbishop's Prize for New Composers* competition for musical composition (**Competition**).

The Competition recognizes and continues the historical contribution of the Church to the arts, and is designed to encourage a musical culture in Australia by providing a platform for new composers to have their work performed. In particular, it is hoped that the Prizes will enable the development of a uniquely Australian flavor of musical work and so the text is drawn from one of Australia's greatest poets, Les Murray.

Against this background, the Competition aims to discover and to encourage young composers and will recognise unpublished and previously unperformed choral works, written with a wider use in mind than a single performance.

The Competition will have 3 prizes as follows (**Prize**):

- The winning Entry will be performed by the St Mary's Cathedral Choir at the annual Christmas concert to be held at St Mary's Cathedral in December 2019 and the First Prize Winner will receive a cash prize of **\$2,500**.
- The Second Prize Winner will receive a cash prize of **\$1,000**;
- The Third Prize Winner will receive a cash prize of **\$500**.

The Second Prize Winner's Entry and/or the Third Prize Winner's Entry may be selected by the Director of Music of St Mary's Cathedral, at his sole discretion, to be performed at the annual St Mary's Cathedral Christmas concert.

To enter in the Competition, you must be aged between 18 and 35 years and must complete the Entry Application Form, agree to the Competition Conditions of Entry and submit your musical composition (**Entry**). The Entry is to be submitted in the form of sheet music.

A separate application form is required for each Entry in the Competition. It is permitted for an Entry to have more than one composer (**Entrant**). In this case, each Entrant will need to complete a separate Entry Application Form. Each Entrant may only submit one Entry either for himself/herself only or for a group of Entrants where the Entry has more than one composer.

The Competition closes at 5pm on Monday, 30 September 2019.

Competition Criteria

Selection of the winning Entry will be based on the following criteria (**Criteria**):

- the Entry must be a musical composition which uses Les Murray's poem, "*Animal Nativity*", as its lyrics. A copy of the poem is below;

- the Entry must be no more than 5 minutes in duration;
- the Entry must consist of a standard SATB choral piece with optional division of voices; and
- an Entry may also have an optional organ accompaniment.

In addition, in submitting an Entry, the Entrant should also describe his or her compositional activity to date, such as whether the Entrant has studied composition or performed works.

The Poem

Animal Nativity by Les Murray

From *Collected Poems*, published by Black Inc., a division of Schwartz Publishing Pty Ltd.

*The Iliad of peace began
when this girl agreed.
Now goats in trees, fish in the valley
suddenly feel vivid.*

*Swallows flit in the stable as if
a hatchling of their kind,
turned human, cried in the manger
showing the hunger-diamond.*

*Cattle are content that this calf
must come in human form.
Spiders discern a water-walker.
Even humans will sense the lamb,*

*He who frees from the old poem
turtle-dove and snake
who gets death forgiven
who puts the apple back.*

*Dogs, less enslaved but as starving
as the poorest humans there
crouch, agog at a crux of presence
remembered as a star.*

If you have any questions about this Competition, please send us an email at:
newcomposers2019@sydneycatholic.org