

MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre
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14 August 2019

LES MURRAY POEM INSPIRES PRIZE FOR NEW COMPOSERS

A celebrated work from legendary Australian poet, the late Les Murray, will feature in the inaugural Archbishop's Prize for New Composers.

Entrants in the exciting new competition, launched today by the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev Anthony Fisher, must use lyrics from Murray's poem, *Animal Nativity* to compose a piece of choral music that is less than five minutes in length.

A panel of judges will assess the entries from new composers who must be aged between 18 and 35 with the winner receiving a cash prize of \$2500.

The winning composition will also be performed at a Christmas Concert in front of thousands of people at St Mary's Cathedral in December.

Archbishop Fisher says he hopes the new competition can help showcase the talents of young, unpublished composers across Australia.

"This competition honours the historical contribution the Church has made to the arts and I personally chose the poem by Les Murray to honour this inspirational poet who died this year and contributed so much to the arts in Australia and had such a strong Catholic faith", Archbishop Fisher said.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for a talented new composer to have their work recognised publicly and performed by one of the nation's oldest and most respected church choirs- the St Mary's Cathedral Choir at our Christmas Concert", Archbishop Fisher added.

Interstate winners will have their flights paid for to ensure they can personally come to Sydney to receive their prize. The second prize recipient will receive a cash prize of \$1000 and the third prize winner, \$500.

The winner will also have the opportunity to work with the Cathedral's Director of Music, Mr Thomas Wilson to prepare the composition for public performance.

More information on the Archbishop's Prize for New Composers including entry criteria and an entry form can be found online: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/about-us/awards/#New-Composer>

Entries close at 5pm on Monday 30 September 2019.

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