

MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

9 June 2021

ENTRIES OPEN IN ARCHBISHOP'S PRIZE FOR NEW COMPOSERS

Talented young composers from across Australia are invited to submit entries in the prestigious Archbishop's Prize for New Composers, with the winner to have their work publicly performed at a Christmas Concert at St Mary's Cathedral in December.

The prize was first offered in 2019 and is open to new composers aged from 18-35 with the winner receiving a cash prize of \$2500. The prize was not held last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The inaugural winner of the prize was Melbourne choir teacher, Timothy Mallis, who composed a piece based upon the lyrics of the late Australian poet Les Murray's work *Animal Nativity*.

Entrants in this year's competition must use lyrics from the poem *Wisdom* written by North Sydney Jesuit priest, Fr Andrew Bullen SJ, to compose a piece of choral music that is less than five minutes in length.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher said the competition was an important way of recognising the historic contribution the Church plays to the arts, while celebrating emerging composers at the same time.

"We all know first-hand how music can play a powerful role in accompanying us in our personal faith journeys", Archbishop Fisher said.

"I hope the competition can inspire young composers to take up careers in music, especially in the field of choral music, which can only benefit the faithful in the decades ahead", he 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.

More information on the Archbishop's Prize for New Composers, including entry criteria, the lyrics from the poem *Wisdom* and an entry form can be found online: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/about-us/awards/archbishops-prize-for-new-composers/>

The Competition closes at 5pm on Thursday 30 September 2021.

Further Information: contact Michael Kenny, Acting Director, Communications & News Media Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney mobile: 0438 046 406, email: michael.kenny@sydneycatholic.org