



Loren W. Pontén, Founder & Artistic Director
19429 77th Pl NE, Kenmore, WA 98028 • 206.782.2899 • info@opus7.org • www.opus7.org

**For immediate release
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**For more information call
(206)-782-2899**

WHO **OPUS 7 Vocal Ensemble**
Loren Pontén, Director

Winner, "American Prize in Choral Performance", 2013

WHAT **2013–2014 Student Choral Composition Awards Program**
For students enrolled in public or private schools throughout the Northwest Region, including **Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington,** and **Wyoming**, in the following categories:

- Category A: High School
- Category B: College/University: Undergraduate
- Category C: College/University: Graduate

WHEN **Schedule**

- **February 1, 2014:** Deadline for receipt of scores and recordings
- **February 15, 2014:** Announcement of award winners
- **Week of May 6, 2014:** Rehearsals of student works in Seattle
- **May 10, 2014:** Performance of student works and presentation of awards at Opus 7's concert entitled "**Spring Folly**".
- **DETAILS Cash Awards** (\$1,500 total)
- \$300 - High-school student award
- \$500 - Undergraduate student award
- \$700 - Graduate student award

What to submit

- One or more choral works (Three legible copies for each work submitted in paper or PDF format)
- Biographical statement or resume (must include contact information including mailing address, phone number, and Email address if available)
- Complete list of compositions
- Recordings, if available - CDs, cassette tapes, & mp3s are all acceptable; **MP3 recordings are preferred.**
- *Optional:* Self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of materials
- See Submission Options under Guidelines and Rules on page 3 below for details about acceptable formats

Guidelines for works submitted

- Duration must be between three to five minutes
- Musical style should be in keeping with "classical" or "serious" choral art and tradition, and may also incorporate elements of jazz as well.
- Texts may be either secular or sacred in nature
- Performing forces are restricted to the following: a cappella choir (up to SSAATTBB voices), choir with piano.

WHERE **Send submissions to:**
Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble
Student Choral Composition Awards
19429 77th Pl NE, Kenmore, WA 98028



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OPUS 7 Vocal Ensemble announces

2013-2014 Student Choral Composition Awards

Seattle-based Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble announces the 2013–2014 Student Choral Composition Awards. The awards are open to students who are enrolled in High Schools, Colleges, and Universities during the 2013-2014 school year throughout the Northwest Region, including Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. The goal of this unique program is to foster the composition and public performance of choral works by talented young composers. Students may submit works in one of the following three categories.

Category A: Students enrolled in a public or private high school throughout the Northwest Region

Category B: Undergraduate students enrolled in a public or private university, college, or community college throughout the Northwest Region

Category C: Graduate students enrolled in a public or private university or college throughout the Northwest Region (Graduate students who have completed their course work and who are in the thesis or dissertation stage may also submit scores.)

One composer from each of the three categories listed above will be presented with a cash award and will have their work performed on the Opus 7 concert on May 10, 2014. (NOTE: Opus 7 reserves the right to withhold awards in any or all of the three categories if suitable entries are not received.) Presentation of the awards and performances of the winning works will take place on Opus 7 May concert series, entitled **"Spring Folly"**. **Winners are strongly encouraged to be present at the May 10, 2014 concert.**

Submissions will be reviewed by a panel comprised of Loren Pontén, Artistic Director of Opus 7 and John Muehleisen, Opus 7 Composer-in-Residence.

Guidelines and Rules

- Works must be no shorter than 3 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes in length.
- Works submitted should be in keeping with "classical" or "serious" choral art-music style and tradition, but may also incorporate elements of jazz. Works in pop or show-choir style are not eligible.
- Composers may submit one or more existing works and/or may compose a new composition. Existing works that have not yet received a public performance are also eligible for submission.
- Composers may submit works for either of the following combinations: a cappella choir (up to SSAATTBB) or choir with piano (up to SSAATTBB).
- Guidelines for Submission (Please see Submission Options below for specific instructions)
 - Legible and performance-ready copies of scores for each work submitted
 - A brief biographical statement or resume including composer's name, mailing address, Email address, and phone number.
 - A complete list of compositions to date
 - A recording of each work submitted (if available)



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o **Submission Options**

NOTE: The Review panel respectfully requests that all materials be sent using either Option One or Option Two below, rather than using a combination of the two options.

OPTION ONE: Send submission materials to Opus 7 via mail, FedEx, UPS, etc. Send 3 copies each of the following:

- o Score(s)
- o Biographical statement or resume
- o List of compositions
- o CD or cassette recordings

OPTION TWO (preferred): Send submission materials to Opus 7 as email attachments

- Instead of hard-copy paper documents, a PDF or Word document of each of the following may be submitted as email attachments
 - Score
 - Biographical statement or resume
 - List of compositions
- In place of CDs or cassette tapes, mp3 recordings may be submitted as email attachments; **MP3 recordings are preferred.**
- If you choose this option, please email attachments to **info@opus7.org**, ensuring that the total size of the attachments per email does not exceed the allowable size, which is usually 10mb or so. (NOTE: You might need to send multiple emails if the attachments exceed the allowable size.) If your files are too large to send via email, please choose Option One instead.

Materials should be received at the following address or at info@opus7.org by no later than February 1, 2014.

Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble
Student Choral Composition Awards
19429 77th Pl NE, Kenmore, WA 98028

Optional: If you choose Option One and if you want your submission materials returned, you must include a self-addressed envelope that will accommodate all materials to be returned. Please ensure that sufficient postage is included on envelope. (If no envelope is included, works will not be returned. Opus 7 is not responsible for condition of materials upon return.)

- Composers who do not receive an award this year may re-enter their submission(s) and/or submit new material during a future award cycle.
- Composers who have received awards in the past may enter another score when they are eligible for the next submission category level (e.g., if someone was a winner in the H.S. category, they can resubmit when they are an undergraduate, or an undergraduate winner may submit a new score when they are a graduate student).
- All Review Panel decisions are final.



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- Opus 7 reserves the right to withhold awards in any or all of the three categories if suitable entries are not received
- Cash awards total \$1,500, divided as follows: Category A: \$300, Category B: \$500, and Category C: \$700.
- Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble will pay for the cost of copying scores chosen for public performance.

The timeline for the program is as follows.

- **February 1, 2014:** Deadline for receipt of scores and recordings
- **February 15, 2014:** Announcement of Award recipients (Those composers not receiving awards will be notified by mail after the announcement of the winners has been posted.)
- **Week of May 6, 2014:** Rehearsals of student works in Seattle, WA
- **May 10, 2014:** Performance of student works and presentation of awards.

Since its inception, **Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble** has established a reputation for continually featuring a diverse range of new and rarely performed works, along with time-honored classics of choral literature. Formed in 1992 as a professional choral group by founding director Loren Pontén, Opus 7 specializes in 19th- through 21st-century a cappella choral music. As a resident ensemble of St. James Cathedral in Seattle, Washington since 1994, Opus 7 is firmly dedicated to performing the works of local and regional composers, regularly commissioning new choral compositions. In addition, since 2000 Opus 7 has fostered new talent in the field of choral music through their unique Student Choral Composition Awards Program.

Over the years, Opus 7 has increasingly grown in stature through its internationally acclaimed CDs and in the past several years has been recognized as one of the nation's finest and most innovative choral ensembles. Opus 7's contribution to the expansion of the international choral repertoire and its tireless dedication to the commissioning and performance of new works has been recognized nationally by ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) and Chorus America. In June of 2006, Opus 7 received the prestigious Award for Adventurous Programming for the third consecutive time, having also won in 2002 and 2004. Opus 7 is honored to be the first in the history of this award to have won three consecutive awards. Seattle's **Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble** has been named the winner of the **2013 "American Prize in Choral Performance"** in the Community Chorus Division.

Amongst other distinctions, Opus 7 has been privileged to host esteemed American choral conductor Dale Warland in 2001 as guest conductor for the opening concert of its 10th-Anniversary Season and again in May of 2005 for their "Cathedral Classics" concert. They have also hosted New Zealand's finest choral conductor Karen Grylls, Philharmonia Northwest's Roupén Shakarian, and Seattle choral legend Dr. Robert Scandrett². They have been a guest-performing ensemble for the American Choral Directors Association and were featured at the American Guild of Organists National Conference in Seattle in 2000, performing with American choral legend Alice Parker.

The group has also garnered local and national acclaim for its four CD releases: **O Rising Dawn, From Captivity to the Holy City**, and **Let us Sing Sweet Songs**, a world-premiere recording of music by Northwest composer Bern Herbolsheimer and their fourth CD, **As Water Ascends to a Cloud**, music by Pacific Northwest Composers.

For more information, please call **(206) 782-2899** or visit the Opus 7 website at www.opus7.org