

INTERNATIONAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION FOR WIND BAND YOUNG FEMALE COMPOSERS

Foreword

Given the insufficient representation of women composers, especially in wind orchestra repertoire, La Sirène, orchestre d'harmonie de Paris, is dedicating its spring 2021 programme to them and is organising an international competition for young female composers.

This composition competition is supported by SACEM, and organized in partnership with Violeta Cruz. Three prizes will be awarded to young composers for their works composed for this competition.

La Sirène, orchestre d'harmonie de Paris

Since 1874, La Sirène, orchestre d'harmonie de Paris, participates in the musical life of the city and actively defends original works for wind orchestra and contemporary music.

For more than a century, this musical institution perpetuates its original missions: preservation and promotion of non-professional musical practice, and popular musical education. Today, the orchestra is made up of more than 80 musicians and develops ambitious and eclectic projects with diversified repertoire and aesthetics.

Associate composer

Violeta Cruz, chairwoman of the jury

Partners

- **BabelScores®** : digital library of musical scores entirely devoted to contemporary music
- **Plurielles 34** Association for the Promotion of French-speaking Women Composers of the 20th and 21st Centuries
- **Collège Contemporain** Platform dedicated to strengthening the cross-disciplinary nature of creative musical know-how in the fields of innovation, training and entrepreneurial intelligence.
- **Centre des Monuments nationaux / Panthéon** concert venue on the occasion of the temporary exhibition dedicated to Ann Veronica Janssens

Competition rules

1. Eligibility

This competition is international and open to female composers born after 1st January 1985.

2. Theme

The theme chosen for this competition is "Mirrors". Each candidate is invited to freely appropriate this theme and to propose their unique interpretation.

3. Adjudication process

The competition will be organised in three stages: pre-selection, selection and final stage.

PRESELECTION

Each participant must send before 18 July 2020 an application file including the following elements

- Musical CV mentioning the curriculum, musical experiences and catalogue of works;
- Statement of reasons for participating in this competition, specifying the relationship to the wind orchestra (previous experiences, appreciated works and composers) and describing the proposal for a composition project. The medium for presenting this information is free (written letter in pdf format, video spot...);
- Scores and recordings of 2 to 3 representative works. The written texts and scores must be submitted in PDF format, the format of video and audio materials is free.

All documents must be grouped together in one folder sent as a WeTransfer link by email to the following address: concours-compo@lasirene.info

After reviewing the applications, the jury will select up to 7 candidates. Candidates will be informed of the results on 27 July 2020.

SELECTION

The selected candidates will be invited to compose a sketch on the theme of the competition (article 2) lasting 1 to 2 minutes.

Each candidate will send before 6 September 2020 the full score and a written presentation of the project by email to concours-compo@lasirene.info.

3 candidates will be selected by the jury as finalists. Results will be announced on 20 September 2020.

FINAL STAGE

The finalist composers of the competition will compose an original work on the theme of the competition, lasting 6 to 7 minutes. The full score and parts, in PDF format, must be sent before 20 December 2020 to the following e-mail address: concours-compo@lasirene.info.

The prize-giving ceremony will take place during the premiere concert, in the presence of the jury, in spring 2021.

4. Prizes

The works of the finalists will be performed at a premiere concert in the spring of 2021.

At the end of the competition, the works could be included in the BabelScores® catalogue with the mention of the competition.

Prizes to be awarded will be:

- 1st prize : 2000 euros gross;
- 2nd prize : 1200 euros gross;
- 3rd prize : 800 euros gross.

An audience prize of 500 euros gross may be awarded during the premiere concert.

Special Prizes and Mentions may be awarded by the jury.

5. Supervision of the finalists

This competition is intended to be a partnership between an orchestra, a senior composer and junior composers.

During the final stage of the competition, the 3 finalists will be able to consult Violeta to accompany the realisation and finalisation of their project. Each finalist will have a monthly meeting with Violeta Cruz during the final stage of composition (October to December), and a meeting during rehearsals with the orchestra between January and March 2021.

A list of additional information concerning the orchestra, the concert venue and its acoustic characteristics, or any other useful information will be sent to the finalists.

The finalists will present their work to the musicians in January 2021 (written note, video clip or meeting with the orchestra depending on availability and logistical constraints), and will advise the orchestra on the interpretation of their piece.

Between January and April 2021, depending on logistical possibilities, each candidate will be invited to meet the orchestra during its rehearsals (once per month), physically or via videoconference.

6. Conditions

All aesthetic and musical forms are welcomed. Transcriptions are not accepted. The works presented must be original, free of rights and unedited, never having been played or broadcast in public before the final concert of the competition.

Participation in this competition being free of charge, the selected composers undertake in return to mention the name of the orchestra "La Sirène, orchestre d'harmonie de Paris" on all visual and audio supports showing the title of the work (edition of scores, publication of CDs, DVDs, books, programmes, posters, etc.).

The works of the laureates will bear the mention "Winner of the 2021 International Composition Competition - La Sirène, orchestre d'harmonie de Paris".

7. Level

The composed work must be accessible to an amateur wind orchestra of excellence division (level of difficulty 4/5 out of 6 on the international scale).

In order to make the interpretation of the work accessible to as many non-professional orchestras as possible, finalists must include the substitution of instrumental parts which can be difficult or sometimes missing.

8. Instrumentation and orchestration

The orchestration **must** include the following parts:

Woodwinds:

- Piccolo (C)
- Flutes 1-2 (C)
- Oboe 1-2 (C)
- Clarinets 1-2-3 (Bb)
- Bass clarinet (Bb)
- Bassoons 1-2 (C)
- Alto saxophones 1-2 (Eb)
- Tenor saxophones 1-2 (Bb)
- Baritone saxophone (Eb)

Brass:

- Trumpets 1-2-3 (Bb) or cornet (Bb)
- Horns 1-2-3-4 (F)
- Trombones 1-2-3 (C)
- Euphoniums 1-2 (Bb)
- Tuba (Bb)

Percussions:

Timpani (4) and Percussion (for a minimum of 4 percussionists)

Strings:

4-string double bass

The orchestration may offer the following optional parts:

- 2nd Piccolo (C)
- Alto Flute (G)
- Bass Flute (C)
- English Horn (F)
- Eb Clarinet (Eb)
- Alto Clarinet (Eb) or Bass Horn (F)
- Double Bass Clarinet (Bb)
- Contrabassoon (C)
- Soprano Saxophone (Bb)
- Flugelhorn (Bb)

The precise nomenclature of the work must appear on the score's cover page as well as details of the percussion instruments.

9. Jury

The jury will be chaired by Violeta Cruz, together with internationally renowned artists, representatives of our orchestra and our partners.

Decisions of the jury are final.

10. Final terms

The candidates participating in this competition accept the clauses of the rules.

Failure to comply with any of the articles of the present rules will automatically and without recourse, lead to the elimination of the candidate.

The French version of these rules will be the official and reference version in case of dispute.

SUMMARY CALENDAR

- 18 July 2020: Application form
- 6 September 2020: Musical sketch
- October to December 2020: Composition of the pieces
- 20 December 2020: Submission of the pieces
- January to April 2021: Work with the orchestra
- April 2021: Creation of the pieces