

# EXPO:

## NEW WORKS COMPETITION



# APPLICANT GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Composers should submit one instrumental work which they feel tells a story (this can be interpreted openly). The piece should be for 1-5 players, between 4-10 minutes long, and written in the last 10 years. MIDI or recorded files are highly encouraged to include in your application, if available. Applicants should exclude their name from the score submitted for anonymity. With prepared materials, the application should take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

EXPO is open to early-career composers of instrumental music from any genre! We welcome all compositional backgrounds and levels of training, whether composing is your main gig, a side hustle, or just a hobby.

## IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT?

There is no age limit for the competition. However, since winners will be publicly announced and have personal information and media published on our channels, applicants under 18 years of age must have permission from a legal guardian.

## WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for submissions that tell a story. We have little preference of genre, but we would love content that varies from the other films we've produced (which are, for the most part, traditional classical). This year, we would love to produce a film with an electro-acoustic piece of music, but this is not the most important factor, so do not worry if that is not your style!

Please note that we are not judging on compositional excellence in an academic or formal way. We also will not prioritize originality or "unfamiliarity" of style, sound, or techniques for the pure sake of pushing musical boundaries; we are judging on how you are able to use and express your unique style to evoke imagery and narrative. We want to get to know you through your writing, and we want to hear the story alongside it!

Keep in mind that you don't need to have a definitive story in mind for your piece in order to submit - this is where we come in. While musical storytelling is quite open-ended, we often consider these prompts to help us and those we teach and work with, which you can reflect upon in your own work:

*Does the piece make you think of a color, an image, or a character?*

*How does the piece make you feel, and does it have an emotional arc?*

*If this piece were the background music in a movie scene, what would be happening?*

# APPLICANT GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION (CONT.)



## WILL WE BE JUDGING BLIND?

Yes, the competition will be scored blind. With the help of volunteers and a few software tricks, all applicants' personal information will be hidden from the judges, and scoring will be done anonymously until the winners are chosen. Applicants should exclude their name from the score submitted for anonymity. We will have volunteers comb through to double check that all scores are anonymous in case you forget, but please don't be that person if you can help it!

## GROUNDINGS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

While we hope it doesn't come to this, we do have a few points that are grounds for disqualification, as follows:

- We will not accept content which is profane, explicit or otherwise inappropriate for young audiences. We primarily work with children, and while these films are meant for audiences of all ages, subject matter must remain appropriate.
- We will not accept submissions of music with no live performance elements (ie. tape only). It is an important part of our mission that music brings the stories to life, and we feel it is imperative that we can see the performers making music alongside the story that is being told. Therefore, we are not interested in producing music that cannot be recorded live (see our Youtube channel for previous videos and the style in which we depict this).
- We will not accept submissions with lyrics. If vocals are included, they must be wordless or scatted vocalizations only. Minimal poetry and/or spoken word is allowed so long as content is original (written by you) or in the public domain.
- The submission should not currently be published. All rights to the work must be owned by you.

## WHEN CAN I APPLY?

Submissions will be accepted from July 1 - August 15, 2021. Since we are a small organization with limited capacity, please note that we will need to close on or before the final deadline if we receive 100 submissions. So, be sure to submit your score as early as possible!

## WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER WINNING

Hooray! Three winners will be announced in early September. We will contact all applicants about the results of the competition. The winning films will premiere at an awards ceremony in May 2022.

Prize money will be awarded to the winners immediately, and audio recordings will follow within 1-2 months of the winner's announcement (or in the grand prize winner's case, within 1-2 months upon receipt of the finished commission, depending on difficulty level of parts). Please do not expect a finished film until the premiere date - we will be working during that time to ensure the highest possible quality!

Still have questions? Please email [artbeyondtheink@gmail.com](mailto:artbeyondtheink@gmail.com) for further information or clarification. We look forward to hearing your work!