

A Summer Psalm

The RULES	Rule	Reason
1	The competition is free to enter, to composers from any point on the globe, but only one entry per individual please.	We'd like to see your best work, so put forward what you consider your best. We hope to have a fair stack of entries to work through, and want to give each our best attention. So it's one entry each.
2	Lyrics should be inspired by or quote from the Psalms; and written in English.	It's not fair for us to judge works in other languages as we are likely not to grasp the subtleties and idiom in the way a native speaker would. We are inviting submissions for a competition in our own language.
3	The judges' decision is final. It will not be revisited or reviewed.	We'll aim to give feedback on every entry, but once the decision is made we're comfortable our panel are qualified to make a judgment. It's not respectful to them or fair to other competitors to behave otherwise.
4	The piece should be written for singers of moderate (or amateur) ability, and sympathetic tonal range.	Fine music, as fine art, is a wonderful thing. We aren't in that business. We want a piece that enthusiastic amateurs can grasp and bring to life with confidence.
5	The ideal musical forces are: up to four choral parts (SATB, or permutations thereof); and/or solo singers. Accompaniment at the composer's discretion	See the comments to rule 4. The piece should be accessible and engaging but we'd like to be flexible with the musical forces. Soloists are fine, and choral parts too. Accompaniment (keyboard, guitar, chamber, percussion) is at the composer's discretion.
6	The closing date is midnight Saturday 4 th July 2020 (London time – GMT+1) and the result will be announced online on Monday 13 th July 2020.	This gives us a week to review and judge the competition before the declaration of the winner. The winner may be contacted in advance to clarify details and agree what information is announced.
7	The upload should be a single pdf file containing an anonymous score, and on an additional final page the Name, Address, E-mail Address and contact telephone number of the entrant. This information will not be shared with the judges. If you wish the judges to hear your work performed, include a link to the recording in this pdf. Do not submit audio files.	<p>We need to manage the size of files being submitted. If you are unable to convert your file to pdf, you may e-mail me directly to discuss options. If you are unable to attach the final page to your pdf, please contact me.</p> <p>Why are we requesting a score when it's not the usual thing for modern songwriters to do? We simply want a song that clearly sets out the lyrics with the tune. You can handwrite it and scan as pdf if you need to, just give us something to hum along with in our head as we read the lyrics.</p>
8	The competition is being run on an ad-hoc basis by me, Mr Andrew Clayton, with assistance from friends to manage the process, and the sole cash prize of £100 is self-funded.	I want to encourage people to write and be part of a community of composers. I am not a rich man, and don't feel the prize money needs to be the principal motivator. I am employed by a church in the Diocese of Birmingham, and associated with other churches, but this competition is not associated with them in any way. There is one cash prize.
9	No rights are in any way transferred or conferred, purchased or sought.	I want to celebrate excellence. If you are OK with me sharing the winning entry, I will do so. If not, you are not under any obligation.
10	It doesn't need to be new, just written by you and you alone. You must have complete ownership of the copyright.	You might have a brilliant song already written. Provided it's never been published, and hasn't won any other competitions, it's fair game. Have fun, and enjoy writing!