



## Chiswick Choir launches the Robin Johnson Choral Composition Prize “On the Water”

Chiswick Choir is delighted to announce a composition competition to be adjudicated by Cecilia McDowall and Stephen Jackson. The competition is funded by a legacy from Robin Johnson, who was a long standing member of Chiswick Choir.

### Prizes

1st prize: £1,000

2nd prize: £500

### Brief

A choral piece for mixed choir, accompanied by piano or organ.  
Some *divisi* is acceptable.

### Duration

4 to 5 minutes

### Text

Composers may choose their own text, which may be sacred or secular in content.  
This must be non-copyright and in the public domain.

Robin had connections with the sea, sailing and the river Thames throughout his life, so we have chosen the theme “*On the Water*”.

### Performance

The performance will be on Saturday 3rd July 2021 at 7.30pm at St Nicholas Church in Chiswick, W4 and will be presented by the Chiswick Choir, conducted by Hilary Campbell and accompanied by Ben Lewis-Smith on organ or piano.

### Deadline

Monday 22nd March 2021. Entries received after this date will not be considered.

### Adjudicators

Cecilia McDowall and Stephen Jackson.

Full details about how to enter for the Robin Johnson Composition Prize are below, and any enquiries about the competition should be sent to [compose@chiswickchoir.org.uk](mailto:compose@chiswickchoir.org.uk)

We look forward to receiving your entries.

### FAQs

See separate sheet.



## CHISWICK CHOIR

### The Robin Johnson Composition Prize: 'On the Water'

Chiswick Choir, one of West London's foremost choral societies, is delighted to announce a composition competition to be adjudicated by Cecilia McDowall and Stephen Jackson. The competition is funded by a legacy from Robin Johnson, a long standing member of Chiswick Choir.

#### Competition Rules

- Brief:** A composition for mixed voice choir, accompanied by piano or organ.  
Occasional divisi is acceptable
- Duration:** 4 to 5 minutes
- Text:** Composers may choose their own text, which may be sacred or secular in content. This must be non-copyright and in the public domain. Robin had connections with the sea, sailing and the river Thames throughout his life, so we have chosen the theme 'On the Water'.
- Performance:** Saturday 3rd July 2021 at 7.30pm at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick, W4.  
Presented by Chiswick Choir, conducted by Hilary Campbell  
Pianist/organist Ben Lewis-Smith
- Deadline:** Monday 22nd March 2021. Entries received after this date will not be considered.
- Adjudicators:** Cecilia McDowall and Stephen Jackson

Any composer, regardless of age, gender or nationality may enter, other than those persons affiliated with the competition. Members of Chiswick Choir and their close relatives, and persons connected to the competition and their close relatives are not eligible to enter.

#### Prizes

- 1st prize: £1,000  
2nd prize: £500

All shortlisted composers will receive a complimentary pair of tickets to the concert.

#### Submission

Works should be accompanied by piano or organ.

Compositions must be submitted anonymously, under a pseudonym.  
The composer's real name must not appear anywhere on the score.

An electronic copy (in PDF format) of the score and a midi file or mp3 must be emailed to [compose@chiswickchoir.org.uk](mailto:compose@chiswickchoir.org.uk) Please ensure that the composer's real name does not appear on these files, but instead are labelled with the same pseudonym as on the hard copies.

On receipt of the electronic copy, we will inform candidates of the postal address to send the hard copies.

Candidates should submit two bound, double sided hard copies of the score, computer typeset (handwritten copies are not acceptable). The entry must be accompanied by a separate, sealed envelope containing the following information: the name of the work, the composer's name, address, telephone number, email address, nationality. and a signature indicating that he/she agrees to abide by the competition rules. The envelope should also contain a CV or biography of the composer.

## **Selection process**

A shortlist of up to six entrants will be chosen and notified no later than Monday 12th April 2021. We hope that shortlisted entrants will attend the concert on Saturday 3rd July 2021, when the shortlisted pieces will be premiered in front of an audience and a panel of judges. The judges will select and announce the winners at the end of the concert and will award prizes.

The judges' selection of the winners is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

## **Text Copyright and Permissions**

It is the candidate's own responsibility to ensure that the text they have set is in the public domain and not subject to any copyright conditions. Failure to do so will disqualify the entry concerned.

Copyright in your composition will remain with you after the premiere and the aforementioned permission is non-exclusive. You can continue to use the material in any way you wish and you can also permit others to use the material.

All entries, including composers' details, may be used in publicity campaigns post competition. Photographs of winning entries may also be used in publicity campaigns.

The shortlisted entrants agree to take part in any post-competition publicity if required.

## **General Competition Rules**

By submitting your composition you grant to Chiswick Choir, free of charge, permission to use the material in any way they wish. In order that Chiswick Choir can use your composition you must confirm that:

It is your own original work

It has not previously been performed or published

It does not infringe any UK laws

You have the right to give Chiswick Choir permission to use it for the purposes specified above.

All candidates submitting entries must enclose a signed affirmation that the submitted composition is entirely their own original work and free from plagiarism of the work of others. This affirmation should also state that the text set in the submission is in the public domain and copyright free. The candidates themselves are liable if either of these assertions turns out to be untrue.

Chiswick Choir reserves the right to alter the competition rules due to unforeseen circumstances.

Any competitor under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The adjudicators' decision is final.

Entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and agree to be bound by them by entering the competition.

Any queries about the competition should be sent to [compose@chiswickchoir.org.uk](mailto:compose@chiswickchoir.org.uk)



## Robin Johnson Choral Composition Prize *On the Water*

### FAQs

*Q. Can I take a wide interpretation of the theme of “On the Water”?*

A. The theme of “On the Water” is intentionally broad, so you may interpret this in any way you choose.

*Q. May I use text that is not in the public domain?*

A. Our requirements regarding the text are to protect us from any copyright infringements. As long as you are able to provide the necessary assurances and licence for the text, to evidence that you have the author’s permission to use it, then you are welcome to use it in your entry.

*Q. May I submit two entries to the competition?*

A. You are welcome to submit more than one entry. Each entry must be between 4 and 5 minutes long. If you submit two entries, each must work as a standalone piece in its own right.

*Q. If I submit two entries do I need to use two separate pseudonyms?*

A. No, you can use the same pseudonym for both entries.

*Q. Are people based outside the UK eligible to enter the competition?*

A. Yes, composers from outside the UK are welcome to enter the competition.

*Q. Can the text be part of a longer poem and not the whole poem?*

A. Yes, this is acceptable.

*Q. Must the text be in English or are other languages acceptable?*

A. The text must be in English or in another standard language sung by choirs in Britain (Latin, French, Italian or German). If it is not in English then a translation must be provided./

*Q. Does the entry need to be largely in 4 parts, or could it be in 5 (SSATB)?*

A. Entries must be largely SATB. Some SSATB passages would be acceptable but not throughout.

*Q. Must the piano or organ play throughout, or would some a cappella sections be acceptable?*

A. A piano or organ accompaniment is required. Some short *a cappella* sections are acceptable but the piece cannot be all *a cappella*.

*Q. When do the hard copies of the score need to be in?*

A. We must receive the hard copies of your score by the closing date of 22 March. The hard copies are needed for the shortlisting stage.



**CHISWICK CHOIR 2021 COMPOSITION COMPETITION  
TIMELINE**

Publicity starts and publication of rules: November 2020

Submission deadline: Monday 22nd March 2021 - 3 weeks before shortlist announced

Notification of shortlist: Monday 12th April 2021 - 1 week before rehearsals start

Choir rehearsals start: Tuesday 20th April 2021

Concert/performance date: Saturday 3rd July 2021