

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
COMPOSER COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

South Carolina Music Teachers Association Guidelines

Statement of Philosophy

Music Teachers National Association is dedicated to encouraging the creation of new works by American composers and annually assists its affiliated state associations in the generation and performance of new music through the national composer commissioning program. SCMTA, as the MTNA affiliated organization in South Carolina, annually commissions an American composer to write a new work which will premiere at its annual conference.

SCMTA Commission

When a composer is chosen by SCMTA, the proposed work will be officially commissioned, a premiere performance will be presented at the state conference no less than ten months after commissioning (usually the November following) and the composer and the work will be entered into the pool of state applicants for the MTNA-Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year Award. SCMTA will pay a commission fee, commensurate with the scope of the work commissioned, which will include MTNA's matching funds up to \$500 (for a potential total of \$1,000).

Composer Eligibility and Rules

1. The composer to be commissioned by SCMTA must live or work in South Carolina.
2. The composer must apply for nomination by sending a current completed application for nomination, a curriculum vitae, and other supporting materials (manuscripts, tapes or CDs of previously written works) by the postmark deadline.
3. Each applicant will also submit a description of a proposed work to be commissioned. Any performance medium is allowed, however fresh new ideas are encouraged.
4. A stamped self-addressed envelope must accompany these materials to facilitate return to the composer.
5. The SCMTA commissioned composer will be selected by a committee composed of three members of SCMTA.
6. Final approval will be made by the SCMTA Board.
7. A composer, who has been previously commissioned by SCMTA, cannot reapply for commissioning until a period of three years has commenced.

Composer Guidelines for the commissioned work and its performance

1. The newly commissioned work must not have been previously written, in part or whole, before the SCMTA commissioning.
2. The commissioned work should be 10-15 minutes in length.
3. The commissioned work may be for any performance medium.
4. The commissioned work will be presented at the SCMTA state conference (usually in November) following the date of the composer commissioning.
5. The commissioned composer is responsible for securing the performer(s) for the commissioned work both at the SCMTA state conference, as well as at the national MTNA conference should the composer be selected the MTNA-Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year (\$3,000 MTNA award). Neither SCMTA nor MTNA provides an honorarium or expenses for these performances.
6. SCMTA will provide for a recording of the premiere work at the state convention.

Timeline

Exact postmark deadlines will be provided on the SCMTA Composers Commissioning Application each year. An example of the timeline is as follows:

December 1, 2003	Postmark deadline for applications for composer nomination
January 10, 2004	Composer chair receives supporting materials from finalists
January 16, 2004	Commissioning committee selects the new composer
January, 2004	SCMTA Board confirms composer to be commissioned
January 20, 2004	Composer, state president, commissioning chair sign contract
October 12, 2004	Copy of the newly commissioned work is sent to chair
November 12, 2004	Premiere work is presented at the convention and the composer receives his/her commissioning check.
December 1, 2004	The manuscript and tape of the work is sent to MTNA
January, 2005	MTNA-Shepherd Composer of the Year is chosen
March, 2005	National award winner presents work at MTNA convention

Approved August 23, 2003
SCMTA Board