

The Really Terrible Orchestra

The Really Terrible Orchestra's Emerging Composer Prize 2016

The Really Terrible Orchestra (The RTO) is celebrating its 20th year by offering a prize for emerging composers. The winner will receive a prize of £1000 and will have their composition performed by the RTO.

The RTO was formed in Edinburgh for adults who weren't good enough to play in a serious amateur orchestra. Despite our modest standard we have managed to have a lot of fun, and we have created a concert format which audiences enjoy.

Most of our concerts are in Scotland including an annual concert during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, (usually a sell-out with over 500 people) but we have also performed in major concert halls in London, New York and Utrecht.

We have been fortunate to have a number of pieces written especially for us. These have been works that are challenging for us but still within our limited range, and also accessible to and enjoyable by our audience.

We want now to reach out to emerging composers in Scotland and elsewhere in the UK, in the hope of finding yet more great pieces to perform – and we hope to play a part in encouraging the careers of those who participate.

The winning entry will be announced at our Edinburgh Festival Fringe concert in August 2016, and will either be played then or at a special concert later in the year.

Who can enter?

You must be resident in the UK. You will qualify as an "emerging composer" if you have not yet had any works published through a music publisher, or more than two works performed other than in an educational institution as part of your education. We are particularly interested in composers who have recently studied, or are now studying music at a college, university or a conservatoire, but you might still be at High School or have come to composing later in life.

What does your composition need to be?

- must be approximately 3-5 minutes long
- must be for full orchestra, with parts for all instruments in the RTO – see attached list including approximate grade levels

- must be an original composition and must not have been played in public before.
- must be playable by us. We vary between grade 3 and grade 8, with a few more proficient players. (*Helpful tip most composers overestimate our ability!*)
- must be, on first hearing, accessible to our audience, some of whom are unlikely to be regular concert goers.
- The theme and style is up to you. We play everything from baroque and light classical to film music and jazz.

You will find on our website some examples of what has worked for us and our audience in the past. [www.thereallyterribleorchestra.com]

How to enter?

You need to email or post/ deliver to us your entry to arrive **not later than 30th June 2016** – see addresses below. We will acknowledge all entries within a week.

This must comprise

- A full score (we may ask you for some or all of the individual parts at a later stage) in PDF format or hardcopy
- An audio representation of the piece (ideally a WAV or MP3 file)
- A brief statement (no more than 200 words) explaining why you qualify as an "emerging composer" as defined above
- A short statement explaining the inspiration for your composition (optional).
- If you are using Sibelius to create the score, a single SIB file exported in V6.2 format would suffice for the first two. If using any other notation software, that should be used to generate the sound and print output.

If you think the technical requirements will cause you substantial problems, please get in touch.

There is an entry form on the website that will make this easier.

Ownership and Performance Rights

The ownership (IPR) of the compositions will be retained by the composers. The RTO will retain the right to perform prize-winning entries without further payment on such future occasions as we choose. We will have the right to play each of the other entries on one occasion without payment.

The Judging Panel and Judging Criteria

The Judging Panel will be chaired by our Director of Music Richard Neville Towle, with

- Walter Mowat, RTO Music Research, Development and Procurement,
- Simon Brown, Director of choral music at Robinson College, Cambridge (formerly Director of Music at Kings College School)
- Steve King, Director of Music at Heriot Watt University.
- Alexander McCall Smith, RTO founder member and author (*to be confirmed*)

The Judging Panel's decision will be final. The prize winner will be what they consider

to be the “Best” taking into account in particular the suitability of the compositions to be played and enjoyed by the RTO, and the accessibility and enjoyment they offer to the RTO audience.

A prize will only be awarded if the Judging Panel feels that they have received entries which merit doing so.

Your Contact with us

On all matters please check the RT website first (www.thereallyterribleorchestra.com), where there will soon be a page for the competition. Then if you have any queries, email Walter Mowat at competition@thereallyterribleorchestra.com or if you really need to talk to someone, 07540 764448.

Good Luck!!

