

The Breathing World youth composer competition is run by David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF). Created to inspire UK music writers aged 12-18, the competition invites budding composers to write a nature inspired piece of choral music of up to 5 minutes in length for SATB voices (soprano, alto, tenor and bass voices) with the option of a mezzo-soprano line if desired.

No entries will be accepted after the closing date on Friday 30th September 2022.

Each entry must comprise of a completed Breathing World application form and your 'Work' (a piece of music in audio and/or pdf score format). Work must be unpublished and can be submitted in one or both of two forms: 1. an audio recording or 2. a score.

Either / both must be submitted digitally to the email address on the application form using a file sharing site like WeTransfer, Google Drive or Dropbox. Audio files must be no more than 5 minutes in length and should be uploaded as a digitally compressed audio file ie; as an MP3. Please do not submit large .wav or .aif files but make sure your file is of a decent bit rate (ideally 160 kbps or 192 kbps).

Please make sure your score is submitted as one single file and not as multiple pages ie; please collate multiple pages of your score into one file.

Application forms and submitted Work will only be accepted digitally and must not be posted to the DSWF offices.

The Breathing World competition is open to composers of all types of music who reside in the UK and are aged between 12-18 years of age on the closing date of 30th September 2022 (5pm UK time). There is no cost to enter the competition to ensure access for all composers.

The maximum number of entries per person is 3, each submission must include a separate application form with each audio file and/or score emailed separately via a file sharing site as stated above. Audio files must be no longer than 5 minutes in length and each score up to 10mb.

Entries of your Work must feature music writing completed within the last five years by the entrants themselves, must be their own original work and be inspired by the natural world. Works written before 30th September 2017 cannot be entered. The entrant must be the sole author and owner of the copyright of each Work entered, both music and lyrics.

Composers using exact reference from another composer or lyricist will need permission from the copyright owner. Source material and proof of permission to use his/her/their music must be made available when requested by the judges.

DSWF accepts no liability for the publication of unlawfully reproduced music. The music should be unpublished and not have been entered into any previous competitions. Copyright of the music will remain with the entrant. If lyrics are used, they must be original or out of copyright.

By entering Breathing World, you agree to grant DSWF a non-exclusive license to use the score and the recording of the Work for any promotional purpose in connection with the competition including publicity, marketing, fundraising and events, with full credit given to the composer when used.

The winning composer, selected by a panel of judges, will get the opportunity to work with an expert team of musicians including the world-renowned mezzo-soprano Laura Wright, to develop and finalise their piece before it is premiered in London. A recording of the piece will be available post event for the composer and for DSWF and for relevant Partners of the competition to use into perpetuity for promotional purposes. There is no cash alternative.

Disclaimer: due to its limited charitable resources, DSWF, judges and organisers are unable to enter into any correspondence with individual composers, acknowledge entries or accept original scores or audio in the post.

You accept that we may use an image or a short clip of your Work to publicise DSWF's charitable work in advance of the judges making their final decision or when approaching commercial organisations to explore potential opportunities for marketing the Work for our mutual benefit. If you don't want us to do this then please confirm in your application form. We will never enter into any commercial agreements relating to your Work without your explicit consent.

The results of the competition will be published in a blog post on the davidshepherd.org website after the announcement of the winner.

The prize winner and their Work may be promoted on the DSWF website and through other media outlets.

The winning entrant will be notified of the judges' decision and will be required to liaise with Laura Wright and her team in advance of a performance and recording of the Work in London.

The competition is not open to DSWF employees or their families.

JUDGING 1. The judges will accept any genre of Work in score or audio form; 2. An independent panel of judges, to include musicians and conservationists, will be elected by DSWF. 3. The judges' decision is final.

HOW TO ENTER 1. Entries must be submitted by 5pm (UK time) on Friday 30th September 2022. No entries will be considered after the closing date. 2. Entries will be accepted as high res (300dpi) scores and clean audio files. Each must comprise of an online application form with an audio recording/score submitted digitally to the email address on the application form using a file sharing site like WeTransfer, Google Drive or Dropbox. Audio files must be no more than 5 minutes in length and should be uploaded as a digitally compressed audio file ie; as an MP3. Please do not submit large .wav or .aif files but make sure your file is of a decent bit rate (ideally 160 kbps or 192 kbps).

Please make sure your score is submitted as one single file and not as multiple pages ie; please collate multiple pages of your score into one file.

Please name your file/s with your surname followed by the title of the audio recording and/or score (e.g. Smith – Water Speaks To Me). We recommend not using “Breathing World” in the title to ensure your entry does not get lost.

No allowance will be made for poor digital images or bad quality photographs of scores or for audio submissions which are not clean / not audible. If there appears to be an error or issue with the file, we will contact you.

DSWF is committed to fair access principles which act as a code for best practice around running successful, open and inclusive art-themed competitions. We want to remove barriers around inclusion or consideration to improve the accessibility of the selection process to ensure a more diverse range of composers can have equal opportunities.