



VOX Nova: Young Composer Competition

Call for Scores!

VOX Femina Los Angeles invites emerging composers ages **18–30** from Southern California to submit an original choral composition for its Young Composer Competition.

This opportunity is designed to encourage and support the next generation of choral composers by providing not only recognition, but also the opportunity to **work directly with a professional-level women's/treble chorus, hear the work in rehearsal, receive artistic feedback, and have the composition premiered and recorded by VOX Femina Los Angeles.**

We are seeking music that demonstrates an individual compositional voice, thoughtful engagement with text, and an imaginative approach to writing for treble voices.

The Opportunity

The selected composer will receive:

- A \$1000 cash prize
- A Workshop with VOX Femina Los Angeles
 - The composer will have the opportunity to hear the work rehearsed by VOX Femina and to engage with the artistic team and singers about the composition.
 - The workshop will provide an opportunity to identify strengths, address practical performance considerations, and make reasonable revisions to the work.
- The winning composition will receive its premiere performance by VOX Femina Los Angeles as part of VOX's March 2027 concert entitled, "Her City. Her Song; Celebrating LA's Women Composers."
- The winning composer will receive a recording of the live VOX Femina performance for personal and professional use.

Eligibility

The competition is open to composers who:

- Are 18–30 years old, inclusive, as of the submission deadline.
- Are residents of Southern California. (Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego Counties)
- Open to young composers who are female, nonbinary, or gender nonconforming.
- May be enrolled in school, pursuing a music degree, or working independently; student status is not required.



- May have studied composition formally or be self-taught.
- May not submit a work that has previously been performed, published, broadcast, commercially recorded, or received an award.
- May submit one composition only.

Composition Requirements

Submitted works must:

- Be an original composition, not an arrangement or reworking of an existing composition.
- Be written for SSA or SSAA voices.
- Be a cappella or with piano accompaniment only.
- Have a duration of 3–6 minutes.
- Set a secular text in English.
- Be appropriate in musical and technical difficulty for an accomplished treble ensemble performing repertoire at the level of VOX Femina Los Angeles.
- Be newly composed and unperformed and unpublished at the time of submission.

Works may include appropriate divisi, but composers should keep the practical capabilities of a treble chorus in mind. The work should be challenging and artistically ambitious without being impractical for rehearsal and performance.

Text:

The composer is responsible for securing all necessary permissions for copyrighted texts. Texts may be:

- Original;
- In the public domain; or
- Used with permission from the copyright holder.

Please provide the name of the poet/author and indicate the copyright status of the text in the application.

The use of AI-generated text or music is not permitted. The submitted work must represent the composer's own original creative work.

Score Requirements

The score must:

- Be professionally engraved using a music notation program.



- Be submitted as a PDF.
- Be a complete conductor's score.
- Clearly identify the title, voicing, duration, text, and text/poet attribution.
- Include measure numbers and page numbers.
- Be clearly and professionally notated and legible.

A piano reduction **is not required**.

Anonymous Adjudication

To support an equitable judging process, **the submitted score should be anonymous**.

The composer's name, school, teacher, institution, biography, or other identifying information **should not appear anywhere on the score**.

Composer information will be collected separately through the application.

Recording

A recording or electronic realization of the submitted work is required.

A demo recording is welcome, but a MIDI or notation-software realization is completely acceptable. The quality of the recording will not be used to evaluate the composer's recording or production skills. The recording is provided to help the jury understand the musical work.

Submission Materials

Applicants will submit:

1. Anonymous PDF score
2. Audio recording or electronic realization
3. Completed online application, including composer's name and contact information
4. Date of birth
5. Southern California city of residence
6. A brief composer biography (150 words maximum)
7. A brief description of the submitted work (200 words maximum)
8. Text and poet/author information
9. Confirmation that the work meets all eligibility and submission requirements

The composer's biography and identifying information will not be provided to the jury during anonymous adjudication.



Failure to meet the above submission requirements will result in disqualification.

The composer may use the recording for professional purposes, including portfolios, applications, and promotion of the work.

Revision and Preparation for Performance

Following the workshop, the composer may be asked to make reasonable revisions to the score in consultation with VOX Femina's artistic staff.

The winning composer must provide a final, performance-ready score in the format and by the deadline requested by VOX Femina.

VOX Femina reserves the right to make minor editorial changes necessary for rehearsal and performance in consultation with the composer.

Copyright and Permissions

The composer retains copyright to the submitted composition.

By submitting a work, the composer grants VOX Femina Los Angeles permission to:

- Reproduce the work as necessary for adjudication, rehearsal, and performance;
- Perform the winning composition;
- Record the winning composition as part of its premiere performance;
- Use the recording, excerpts, photographs, and other documentation of the premiere for noncommercial promotional and educational purposes.

VOX Femina will not claim ownership of the composition.

The composer may subsequently publish, license, perform, or arrange for performances of the work elsewhere, subject to any agreed-upon premiere arrangements with VOX Femina.

Premiere and Recording

The winning composer will be expected to work cooperatively with VOX Femina Los Angeles during the rehearsal and performance process and, when reasonably possible, to attend the workshop and premiere.

Specific rehearsal and performance dates will be communicated to the selected composer at the time of notification.



Important Dates

Call for Scores Opens: September 25, 2026

Submission Deadline: November 30, 2026

Winner Announced: January 5, 2027

Workshop: February 2027 (TBD)

Premiere: March 6, 2027

Submission Checklist

Before submitting, please confirm that you have:

- ☐ Verified that you are 18–30 years old as of the submission deadline
- ☐ Confirmed that you reside in Southern California
- ☐ Submitted only one composition
- ☐ Written the work for SSA or SSAA
- ☐ Written the work a cappella or for piano accompaniment only
- ☐ Used a secular English-language text
- ☐ Kept the work between 3 and 6 minutes
- ☐ Confirmed that the work has not been performed, published, broadcast, commercially recorded, or awarded
- ☐ Created the score using music notation software
- ☐ Saved the score as a PDF
- ☐ Removed your name and other identifying information from the score
- ☐ Included an audio recording or electronic realization
- ☐ Confirmed that all necessary text permissions have been secured
- ☐ Completed the online application