



MMTA COMMISSIONED COMPOSER PROGRAM

2022-2024 Commissioned Composer Chair, Dorothy Travis, commissions@mmta.net

OVERVIEW

MMTA is dedicated to supporting the creation of new works by American composers. The Massachusetts Commissioned Composer Program recognizes an outstanding professional composer with a commission award of \$2,000 and a premiere performance at the biennial Quad State Conference. The Quad State Conference occurs every two years in either Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, or Maine.

The commission is not a prize for an existing composition but rather a means of encouragement for a recognized composer to create a new musical work.

The winning composer of the Massachusetts Commissioned Composer program will also be considered for the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Distinguished Composer of the Year award. Each MMTA commissioned piece is automatically entered into this national competition, which serves to promote and recognize outstanding contributions to American music. The winner is selected by a panel of recognized composers. The MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year receives an award of \$5,000, and their newly commissioned piece is presented in a concert performance at the next MTNA National Conference.

QUALIFICATIONS & ELIGIBILITY

The MMTA Commissioned Composer Program serves to support the careers of professional composers and is not to be confused with the MTNA Student Composition Competitions.

- Any member of MMTA may nominate a composer.
- The nominee does not need to be a member of MMTA or MTNA.
- The nominee must be a legal resident of the United States and preferably a resident of Massachusetts.
- The nominee may be any composer who will agree to the terms of the application and the rules and regulations of the competition.
- Composers currently enrolled in high school, undergraduate, or master's degree programs are NOT eligible to apply.
- Submissions from doctoral candidates are accepted.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES FOR 2022-2024

November 1, 2022 Nomination period closes.

December 1, 2022 Selected Nominated Composers submit cover letters, resumes and audio files. •

December 23, 2022 The Commissioned Composer Chair will notify the winning composer. •

September 1, 2023 Delivery of commissioned composition: PDF of completed score must be sent via e-mail to the MMTA Commissioned Composer Chair: commissions@mmta.net

October 2023 Premiere performance of the commissioned composition at the Quad State Conference, which is held in either Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire or Vermont.

December 1, 2023 Deadline for MMTA Commissioned Composer Chair to submit the commissioned composition to the MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year Award Competition.

March, 2024 Performance of the composition from the MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year at the MTNA National Conference

NOMINATION GUIDE

- Any member of MMTA may nominate a composer.
- Nominations should be submitted to the MMTA **Commissioned Composer Chair**, commissions@mmta.net and should include nominee's name, address, phone number, and email address.
- When considering making a nomination, first ascertain the interest of the prospective nominee in pursuing the commission.
- The commissioned composer chair will contact each nominee and request a resume (or curriculum vita) and an audio sampling of their previous work.
- It is very important that all nominees understand that the commission is not a prize for an existing composition, but rather a means of encouragement for a recognized composer to create a new musical work.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Commissioned Composer will be selected by a committee comprising the MMTA Commissioned Composer Chair, MMTA State President, and a third judge chosen by the Commissioned Composer Chair.

COMMISSIONED COMPOSITION & PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

The selected Commissioned Composer will write a work approximately 10–15 minutes in length for any performance medium.

The commissioned composition is premiered at the Quad State Conference.

MMTA will provide a stipend of \$150 per performer to engage musicians for the Quad State Conference premiere performance. The maximum stipend will be \$1,050 for up to 7 performers.

MMTA offers no additional financial assistance in this regard and does not offer any additional stipend for travel or lodging.