

St Endellion Easter Festival Composition Competition 2025

Entries are now open for the 2025 St Endellion Easter Festival Composition Competition.

Closing Date: 5pm GMT on Monday 3rd February 2025

The winner will be awarded £1500 upon delivery of a commission of a work to be performed at the St Endellion Easter Festival, held in Cornwall from 12th to 20th April 2025.

We welcome submissions from individuals from a wide range of circumstances and recognise there is no one path to becoming a composer!

The Festival:

The St Endellion Easter Festival will hold its 52nd annual festival in the Collegiate Church of St Endellion, North Cornwall. This residential festival brings together instrumentalists and singers to rehearse and perform a range of concerts over a 9-day period encompassing oratorio, orchestral and choral concerts, chamber performances and two sung church services.

<https://endellionfestivals.org.uk/About>

The Award:

The selected award winner will receive a £1500 Prize upon delivery of a new composition written for the St Endellion Easter Festival 2025. The final composition must meet the following requirements:

- Duration: between 3 and 6 mins.
- Instrumentation: max 5 performers, utilising instruments and voices from within the Festival forces (2222-4230-tmp-cnt-pf-str; voices SATB). For queries regarding instrumentation, please contact us in advance of submitting an application.
- The composition must use a text appropriate for our concert entitled 'Lament through the ages'. The concert theme derives from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet, although the text(s) need not be explicitly religious. Texts cannot be liturgical and must not require copyright (alternatively, copyright permission can be obtained at applicant's expense prior to submitting an application). Texts may or may not be performed by a singer.
- Applicants are encouraged but not obliged to consider themes which have links with Cornwall and the spiritual context of the Easter Festival (e.g. renewal, spring).
- The composition must be entirely acoustic.
- Consider that the musicians will have limited rehearsal time.

The £1500 Prize includes: research, writing, delivery and any necessary revisions of the new composition; attendance at Festival including a possible Friends Event and open workshop; perpetual performance rights for the St Endellion Festivals. Travel expenses, accommodation and meals whilst in residence will be provided to the award winner in addition to the £1500 prize.

The Festival expects a finalised score and parts (electronic copy acceptable) to be delivered on or before 27th March 2025. The composition will be premiered on Thursday 17th April 2025 as part of the Festival. Distinguished violinist Paul Barritt will lead a workshop during the Festival in collaboration with the composer and performers.

The Application Process:

Eligibility:

Entrants must be over 18, have the right to live and work in the UK, and have a UK bank account. We hope entrants are available to attend the Festival (12th - 20th April 2025) for at least part of the week. Travel, accommodation and meals whilst in residence will be provided. Should you be unable to attend but still wish to apply, please contact us in advance.

Entry Requirements:

- Artistic Proposal (see guidance below)
- Chosen text
- Portfolio: min 2, max 3 composition scores for consideration (PDFs)
- Web link to recording of compositions (optional)
- Current CV
- Motivational Statement
- Completed entry form (link below)

Both the Artistic Proposal and the Motivational Statement may be submitted as links to freely accessible recorded video (e.g. YouTube link).

Artistic Proposal:

Significant weight will be given to the Artistic Proposal. In no more than 350 words (or 3 mins of video), please set out the artistic considerations behind the piece you intend to write. You should take into consideration the Commission requirements (above), explain your reasoning for choosing the text you have and expand upon any early ideas you might have for the composition.

How to enter:

Please submit your entry no later than 17:00 on 03.02.2025, using the Google Forms below:

<https://forms.gle/gjoGymPuS7NPRW9z8>

Selection Process:

Choosing a winner will be a two-part process. In the first round, only the Artistic Proposal and Portfolio will be considered. Applications will be anonymised as much as possible before being assessed by a panel who will determine a shortlist for the second round.

For the second round, a larger panel will determine the successful candidate from the short list. The panel may consider the motivational statement and CV of entrants in addition to the Artistic Proposal and Portfolio. No additional submission is required for the second round and applicants will not be contacted between rounds of assessment. Diversity monitoring data, if provided, will not form part of the assessment or selection process.

The Results:

We will announce a winner by 14th February 2025. The successful composer will have 6 weeks to write this work.

Brief feedback will be provided to applicants who express the desire for feedback on their application form. Feedback will contain a numeric score from the first round of assessment. Our assessment criteria will be shared along with this score, in order to contextualise feedback for applicants.

The panel's decision will be final and the Festival reserves the right not to determine an award-winner.

Enquiries:

Should you have any queries, please contact Meryll Webster, Trustee of St Endellion Festivals Trust, at eastercommission@endellionfestivals.org.uk.