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16th International Handbell Symposium Composition Contest

PURPOSE: To promote the composition and arrangement of music for handbells by Canadians, and in the process select the Canadian piece of handbell music which will be used as the Canadian Massed Ringing item at the 16th International Handbell Symposium (IHS) in Jeju, Korea in 2014.

PRIZE: A \$1000.00 prize will be awarded to the composer of the successful manuscript.

GENERAL INFORMATION: International Handbell Symposia are held every two years, and attract some of the top handbell choirs in the United States, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, Australasia, Korea and Hong Kong. Pieces are chosen from each country, and are rung “en masse” by all participants. The average ringer attendance ranges between 900 and 1200 ringers. Some teams or choirs ring three chromatic octaves of bells which range upwards from the C4, the C below middle C. Most attending choirs ring 5 octaves of bells, which range up from C3, the C two octaves below middle C. Several choirs have the sixth (or even seventh) octave from the G below to the G above that.

RULES AND COMPETITION CONDITIONS

1. Entries must consist of an original composition in the handbell idiom, or an arrangement of an original composition in any style. *It is the sole responsibility of arrangers to obtain written permission from copyright holders or to determine that the original work is in the public domain before proceeding with writing any handbell arrangements.*
 2. Entries must be suitable for massed ringing and useable by 3, 4, 5, and perhaps 6 octave choirs in a single choir setting.
 3. Entries must be unpublished and not submitted to another contest or to a publisher for publication during the term of this competition.
 4. The composition should be three (3) to five (5) minutes in length.
 5. Range of difficulty should be medium to medium-difficult, or level 3 to 4+, according to the HMA rating system. Recognized handbell notation must be used. (The latest issue of Handbell Notation and Grading is available from the Handbell Musicians of America, 1-800-878-5459. Provincial Guilds can also be of service.)
 6. Adjudication will be based on the following criteria: 1. Appeal to ringers and audience, 2. Effectiveness as a handbell composition, 3. Suitability for massed ringing, 4. Probability of acceptance for publication and 5. Overall emotional, intellectual and musical impression.
 7. Eight copies **without the name of the composer/arranger**, and one copy **with** the name of the composer/arranger must be sent to the Chairman along with the completed and signed entry form. Each copy must be submitted in its own separate envelope. **DO NOT SEND THE ORIGINAL COPY.** All copies will be destroyed at the end of the contest unless the composer wishes them returned at his or her own cost.
 8. The composer/arranger may enter as many manuscripts as he or she wishes. A separate entry form is required with each manuscript.
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9. The composer/arranger's permission is required with their entry for individual judges to duplicate a manuscript solely for the purpose of sight reading with a handbell choir for adjudication purposes. After such single reading, the copies will be immediately destroyed. Without such permission, adjudication will be based purely on the manuscript.
 10. The Handbell Guilds of Canada reserve the right to guide the successful winners towards timely publication of the manuscript.
 11. Entrants must be Canadian citizens.
 12. Entries must be postmarked no later than midnight **April 1, 2012**. Please send to:
Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin, Chair
Handbell Guilds of Canada
Handbell Composition Competition
63 West Cedar Rise SW, Calgary, AB, T3H 5E2
- Entrants to the contest may expect to be informed of the outcome by June 1, 2012.

**THE HANDBELL GUILDS OF CANADA RESERVE THE RIGHT NOT TO DECLARE A WINNER.
THE DECISION OF THE ADJUDICATION PANEL IS FINAL.**

Canadian composers/arrangers who are unfamiliar with the handbell idiom, the capabilities of the instrument, or the method of notation are encouraged to contact their provincial guild as attached, the Chair of HGC or Alison Wood at (780) 433-8540, awood@telus.net.

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