

# ATTENTION COMPOSERS!

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR SCMTA 2025 COMPOSER COMMISSIONING

Composers with connections to South Carolina are invited to apply for the South Carolina Music Teachers Association 2025 Commissioned Composer Award.

### Benefits

1. The composer selected will receive a \$1500 cash prize (\$750 from SCMTA matched by MTNA).
2. The piece will be advanced to eligibility for the MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year (\$5000 award).
3. Premiere performance at the SCMTA 2025 conference (November 6-November 8 Winthrop University)

### Background of the Commission

Music Teachers National Association is dedicated to encouraging the creation of new works by American composers. MTNA annually assists its affiliated state associations in the generation and performance of new music through the national composer commissioning program. SCMTA, as the MTNA affiliated organization in South Carolina, annually commissions an American composer to write a new work which will premiere at its annual conference.

### Composer Eligibility and Rules Requirements for 2025

The composer must currently reside or has lived in South Carolina. Composers are *not* eligible who have, within the past three years, been commissioned by SCMTA or who have received the MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year within the past three years.

### Type of Composition to be Commissioned

The board seeks a composition that captures South Carolina's musical history—from Native American rhythms and settlers' hymns to field songs, jazz, and blues. Music is memory, tradition, and the heartbeat of a people, telling stories of joy, struggle, and perseverance through the centuries. From Catawba drumbeats to African American spirituals, immigrant ballads, and Charleston Renaissance brass, our history runs deep and everywhere. We invite you to draw inspiration from our history to create a new work that honors the past while bridging to the present.

### Requirements of the Composition and Premiere

1. Must feature piano.
2. The length should be not more than 15 minutes.
3. Lyrics, if any, must meet prior approval by the SCMTA board.
4. The composer is ultimately responsible for the performers, instrumentation, and audio recording at the premiere. (SCMTA will assist and coordinate where possible)

## **Application Process**

The application consists of the following materials:

1. Commission proposal form (see below)
2. Current Curriculum Vitae (C.V.)
3. Two compositions (pdf scores with digital recordings or corresponding links to recordings) that best represent your body of work as a composer.

These three items should be sent to Alan Avant via email ([avanta@winthrop.edu](mailto:avanta@winthrop.edu)) no later than April 4, 2025. The committee will make an announcement around the end of April 2025. An official contract will then be signed by the commissioned composer and by SCMTA.

The deadline for the completed composition is October 3, 2025. For sake of performers at the premiere, an earlier time of completion is preferable. The composer is ultimately responsible to provide performers.

## **Composer Guidelines for the Commissioned Work and its Performance**

1. The newly commissioned work is to be written for the express purpose of the SCMTA commission and may not have been previously written, in part or whole, before the SCMTA commissioning.
2. The commissioned composer will be selected by a committee of three, with final approval by the SCMTA board.
3. The commissioned composer will serve on the subsequent year's commissioning committee.
4. Although, SCMTA may be able to help facilitate connections to potential performers, the commissioned composer is ultimately responsible for securing the performers for the premiere.
5. If the state-commissioned composer is selected as the national Distinguished Composer of the Year, he or she receives \$5000. The composer must then provide performers for the national convention. Neither SCMTA nor MTNA provides travel expenses or honoraria for the performance at the national convention.
6. For any additional questions contact Alan Avant at [avanta@winthrop.edu](mailto:avanta@winthrop.edu)

## **Commission Proposal Form**

Composer's Full Name:

Composer's city and dates of residence in South Carolina:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Mailing Address:

Proposed Title of the Composition

Instrumentation of Prospective composition:

Approximate Length:

Proposal of the Composition (up to 300 words)