

Call for Proposals: Composing for a Wind Ensemble

Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra (SPO) and University of Toronto Schools (UTS)

Deadline: October 31, 2018

The [Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra](#) (SPO) and the [University of Toronto Schools](#) (UTS) are collaborating to issue a **call for proposals** for early career and student composers wanting to write for a wind ensemble. Four to six (4-6) composers will be selected to write a short piece for a wind ensemble of 13 players. This is the third edition of the Composing for a Wind Ensemble workshop.

During the writing process, each composer will be paired with a mentor composer who will be a support and resource: this will include advice on writing the piece, orchestration, score and part preparation, and aspects of career development. Composers will also be supported and advised by SPO music director Ronald Royer.

The program is intended to help participating composers develop and improve their writing for winds and help with career development. Completed pieces will be read by The Winds of the SPO, conducted by Ronald Royer. Composers will receive an archival audio recording of the reading session.

There are two streams for the composer applicants:

1. Open to any composer who meets the eligibility criteria. This *Call for Proposals* will choose 3 or 4 composers to write up to 5 minutes of music each.
2. Open to UTS music students. UTS, in consultation with Ronald Royer, will choose one or two students, who will write a total of five minutes of music. The criteria of the *Call for Proposals* will apply. UTS students cannot apply for stream one.

Eligibility:

- The reading session is open to early-career and student composers who are Canadian (citizens and landed immigrants, high school age and up).
- The program is focused on Ontario-based composers who are able to travel to Toronto for the reading session on March 27, 2019.

About the SPO program:

- Works to be written by selected composers will reflect the **instrumentation** of the SPO ensemble:
 - 2 flutes (2nd doubling piccolo), 2 oboes (2nd doubling English Horn), 2 clarinets (2nd doubling bass clarinet), 2 bassoons, 2 horns, 1 trumpet, 1 percussion, and 1 string bass.
 - Composers are not required to use all the players or doubled instruments.
 - Percussion can include glockenspiel, xylophone, snare drum, bass drum, tom-toms, crash cymbals, suspended cymbals, tambourine, temple blocks, triangle, and timpani (4). Some other percussion instruments could be made available.
 - Pieces can include electronic/tape accompaniment, provided it is limited to stereo playback. Selected composers can use live processing but will need to consult with technical staff and provide equipment beyond what is readily available to the SPO.
 - While the players of Winds of the SPO are professionals, as a group they don't specialize in extended techniques. These techniques can be used but are recommended to not be a prominent part of a composition.

- If requested, composers can gain partial access to scores and recordings from existing Winds of the SPO collaborations with composers.
- The maximum duration for the individual pieces to be composed is **5 minutes**.
- An important aspect of this project is to involve the selected composers in musical **collaboration** with musicians and administrators.
- Selected composers are expected to **participate** in at least two mentorship meetings and **attend** the reading session in-person. More than two mentorship meetings are possible. Composers are strongly encouraged to **attend** The Winds of the SPO concert on Feb. 9, 2019. A complimentary ticket will be provided, and the composers will be acknowledged.
- Proposed pieces should consider the strengths of the Winds of the SPO and current SPO programming. [Click here](#) to view SPO programming for the 2018/2019 season. You can stream eight short documentaries called *Winds of the Scarborough Philharmonic: Making of the Canadian Panorama* on the [SPO YouTube Channel](#), and you can listen to the *Canadian Panorama* CD on Spotify, Naxos music library, and other streaming services. You can also purchase or download the *Canadian Panorama* CD.
- **SPO Concert** information:
 - Date: February 9, 2019
 - Location: St. Dunstan of Canterbury Anglican Church (56 Lawson Road, Scarborough)
- **Reading session** information:
 - Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 6:00pm-8:30pm
 - Location: University of Toronto Schools (30 Humbert Street, Toronto)

Submissions:

Eligible composers should submit the following to be considered:

- **Short written proposal (400 word max.):** Include your artistic objectives with the piece, your interest in the project, and composing for the Winds of the SPO. If selected, your piece can deviate from this proposal.
- **CV or Resume:** Attach a PDF file focusing on your composition activity. Include your contact information.
- **2 sample scores:** PDF of 2 recent scores. You are not required to submit pieces for wind instruments.
- **2 sample recordings:** Links to streaming audio for the 2 scores submitted. MP3 recordings of the 2 submitted scores (live or MIDI recordings are acceptable). Please ensure that the audio is available for three weeks following the deadline.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: October 31, 2018

Submissions and enquiries should be sent to:

Attention: Ronald Royer, Music Director, SPO

Email: spo@spo.ca

Website: www.spo.ca

Workshop Timeline:

- October 1, 2018: Call for scores is issued
- Late-November 2018: Participating composers will be selected, and all applicants will be notified of the results.
 - Composers will be chosen by a jury consisting of SPO representatives. The jury's decision cannot be appealed. Applicants can request feedback from the jury process.

- The jury will aim to select a representative group of participants based on career stage, aesthetic, and other criteria.
- Finalists will participate in a short phone interview regarding various aspects of the project before the decision is made public.
- Late-November 2018: Mentorship relationships will be established.
 - The mentorship will take the form of occasional lessons/consultations with established composers who have worked with the SPO.
 - The mentor will help to shape the process such that completed works reflect the artistic goals of the composer, while being suitable for the SPO musicians
- Late-November 2018 to late February 2019: Selected composers will work collaboratively with the SPO to write and finalize the composition
- Saturday, February 9, 2019: Winds of the SPO concert
- Monday, February 25, 2019: the score will be delivered to the SPO. Ronald Royer will sign off or give feedback for some changes; mainly centered around notation and/or orchestration
- Thursday, March 7, 2019: final score and parts submitted (PDF files and hard copies)
- Wednesday, March 27, 2019: participation in the SPO reading session

About the SPO:

The SPO is a community orchestra, dedicated to enriching our community through high-quality musical performances. An important part of their mandate is supporting, encouraging and mentoring young musicians and composers. **The Winds of the SPO** is a professional subset of the orchestra. The **Canadian Panorama*** recording, featuring music by seven GTA composers, was designed to help promote Canadian composers worldwide in honour of Canada's 150th Anniversary. As well, this project has a goal of developing repertoire for an intermediate-sized wind ensemble. Repertoire for a medium-sized wind ensemble is limited outside of the classical and early romantic periods. Composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, Krommer and Mendelssohn, and a few later composers, such as Dvorak, Gounod, Richard Strauss, Francaix and Enesco, have composed works for this type of ensemble, but it is not a common occurrence in contemporary music.

Information on the SPO 2018-2019 season, including The Winds of the SPO concert can be found [here](#), and The *Canadian Panorama* recording (on Spotify), can be found [here](#), additional audio example of the SPO can be found [here](#), and YouTube videos on the Making of *Canadian Panorama* can be found [here](#).

*Canadian Panorama Supporters:



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