

Call for Proposals: Composing for a String and Wind Ensemble, for the Scarborough Philharmonic's New Generation Composer's Workshop

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

Deadline: November 18, 2019

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 an ensemble of 10 players. Four to six (4-6) composers will be selected to write a short piece for an ensemble made up of a string quintet and a woodwind quintet. This is the fourth edition of the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra's New Generation Composer's 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 strings and winds and help with career development. Completed pieces will be read by the Odin String Quartet and players from 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 permanent residents, 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 May 4, 2020.

About the SPO program:

- Works to be written by selected composers will reflect the **instrumentation** of the ensemble:
 - 1 flute (can double piccolo), 1 oboe (can double English horn), 1 clarinet, 1 bassoon, 1 horn, 2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello, and 1 string bass.
 - Composers are not required to use all the players or doubled instruments.
 - 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 involved 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.
- 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 SPO septet chamber music concert on Feb. 8, 2020. Two complimentary tickets will be provided, and the composers will be acknowledged.
- Proposed pieces should consider current SPO programming. Go to www.spo.ca to view SPO programming for the 2019/2020 season. To get an idea of the players you will be composing for, you can stream performances of the SPO and watch 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 8, 2020
 - Location: St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Anglican Church (3333 Finch Ave. E., Scarborough)
- **Reading session** information:
 - Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2020, 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 particular ensemble. 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 string and/or wind instruments, but one piece for strings, winds or a large ensemble is recommended.
- **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 one month following the deadline.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: November 18, 2019

Submissions and enquiries should be sent to:

Attention: Ronald Royer, Music Director, SPO

Email: spo@spo.ca

Website: www.spo.ca

Workshop Timeline:

- October 11, 2019: Call for scores is issued
- Early December 2019: 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.
- Mid-December 2019: 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
- Mid-December 2019 to late-March 2020: Selected composers will work collaboratively with the SPO to write and finalize the composition
- Saturday, February 8, 2020: SPO septet chamber music concert
- Monday, March 30, 2020: 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
- Friday, April 10, 2020: final score and parts submitted (PDF files and hard copies)
- Monday, May 4, 2020: 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 our mandate is supporting, encouraging and mentoring young musicians and composers. The **Odin String Quartet** and the **Winds of the SPO** are professional subsets 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.

Information on the SPO 2019-2020 season, including the SPO septet concert can be found at www.spo.ca. The *Canadian Panorama* recording can be found on numerous streaming services, including Spotify and the Naxos Music Library. Documentary videos on the Making of *Canadian Panorama* can be found on YouTube.

*Canadian Panorama Supporters:

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