

Scarborough Philharmonic's New Generation Composer's Project

Call for Proposals: Composing for the Odin (String) Quartet

Deadline: December 15, 2021

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 string quartet. Four to six (4-6) composers will be selected to write a short piece for the Odin Quartet. This is the fifth edition of the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra's New Generation Composer's Project.

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, string and string quartet writing, score and part preparation, and aspects of career development. Composers will also be supported and advised by SPO music director Ronald Royer.

Completed pieces will be rehearsed and then audio and video recorded by the Odin Quartet. The videos will be posted on the SPO's YouTube channel.

There are two streams for the composer applicants:

1. Open to any composer who meets the eligibility criteria, 3-4 composers will be selected
2. Open to UTS music students. UTS, in consultation with Ronald Royer, will choose 1-2 students. UTS students cannot apply for stream one.

Eligibility:

- The project 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. Composers can be involved in-person or online.

About the SPO program:

- Works to be written by selected composers will reflect the **instrumentation** of the ensemble:
 - 2 violins, 1 viola, and 1 cello.
 - 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 and the Odin Quartet.
- 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 a minimum of two mentorship meetings and be involved in the rehearsal process. Additional mentorship sessions can be arranged. Composers are encouraged to **listen** to the Odin Quartet's newly released album, *Journey Through Night*, to get acquainted with the musician's playing. <https://li.sten.to/1IE5xLP>
- **Rehearsals and the recording will take place in Toronto, May 2022** (dates and venues TBA)

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, the Odin Quartet and composing for string quartet. 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 quartet, but including one piece that has one or more string instruments is recommended.
- **2 sample recordings:** Links to streaming audio/video for the 2 scores submitted. MP3 recordings of the 2 submitted scores (live or MIDI recordings are acceptable). Please ensure that the recording is available for one month following the deadline.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: December 15, 2021

Submissions and enquiries should be sent to:

Attention: Ronald Royer, Music Director, SPO

Email: spo@spo.ca

Website: www.spo.ca

Project Timeline:

- November 15, 2021: Call for scores is issued
- Early January 2022: Participating composers will be selected, and all applicants will be notified of the results.
 - Composers will be chosen by a jury consisting of SPO composer 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 aesthetic, diversity/equity, career stage, and other criteria.
 - Finalists will participate in a short phone interview with the SPO music director regarding various aspects of the project before the decision is made public.
- Mid-January 2022: 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 Odin Quartet.
- Mid-January 2022 to early April 2022: Selected composers will work collaboratively with the SPO to write and finalize the composition.
- Monday, April 4, 2022: 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 playability.
- Monday, April 11, 2022: final score and parts submitted (PDF files).
- May 2022: rehearsals, recording session, venues and dates TBA. Composers can participate in person or online.

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 Quartet** is the ensemble-in-residence for the orchestra. The SPO has produced two commercial albums, *Canadian Panorama*, featuring the Winds of the SPO and *Journey Through Night*,

featuring the Odin Quartet. Both recordings feature music by seven GTA composers and were designed to help promote Canadian composers and performers worldwide.

Information on the SPO 2021-2022 season can be found at www.spo.ca.