

THE WIDOWS CORPORATION
Serving the Clergy Families of
The Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania
Since 1769

Announces the 250th Anniversary Anthem Competition

The Widows Corporation of Pennsylvania seeks submissions of a choral arrangement of the anniversary hymn [see below] to be used at the Festival Anniversary Celebration at Old Christ Church, Philadelphia, on October 3, 2019. The winning composer will receive an award of \$5,000. Submissions are due by March 1, 2019.

The Anniversary Hymn:

Selected because of its sense of familial care that is a hallmark of the mission and ministry of The Widows Corporation, “Fathers and mothers” by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith, OBE, and set to the tune “Bunessan,” (Hymn #8 in the Hymnal 1982 of The Episcopal Church) has been selected to be used throughout the Anniversary Year from October 2018 through October 2019 in services around the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. At the Festival Anniversary Service, the hymn will be featured in the winning arrangement, performed by a professional choir with organ and optional other instruments as dictated by the composer.

Musical Guidelines:

The arrangement of the hymn should be for four-part mixed choir with organ accompaniment. Parts for descanting instruments may be included. The melody of “Bunessan” should be prominent throughout the arrangement, but it may appear in a variety of forms and fragments until the final (third) verse of the text. The final verse of the text should allow for, but not require, congregational participation.

How to Apply:

Submissions will be accepted through March 1, 2019 only.

The submission should be in ONE email with three attachments addressed to adkinstenor@gmail.com. The subject line of the email should read “Widows 250 Anthem” followed by the composer’s surname.

- The first attachment should be an anonymous .PDF file of the score. The score itself should be labeled with the title of the work and date of composition only. Scores containing any identifiable reference to the composer will be immediately disqualified.
- The second attachment should be an anonymous recording in mp3 format. The recording must be of the complete anthem, labeled with the title of the work only. Live recordings are strongly preferred over MIDI renditions. If a MIDI rendition must be submitted, take the time to create an audio file that sounds as realistic as possible. If a live recording is submitted, please edit out extraneous sounds such as tuning or clapping.

- The third attachment should be a curriculum vitae of the composer with full name, date of birth, contact information. This will not be viewed by the jury.

The total file size for the submission should be less than 25MB; if a larger file size is absolutely necessary, it may be sent as a Google Drive attachment or as a ZIP file. No third-party submission sites, such as Dropbox or WeTransfer, can be accepted.

There is no application fee.

Receipt of submissions will be acknowledged by return email., but due to the anticipated number of submissions, individual feedback is not possible.

All rights to publication of the work will be retained by the composer.

General questions on the Competition should be addressed to

office@TheWidowsCorporation.org

The Anniversary Hymn Text:

1. Fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers,
all those who love us, for whom we care:
help and befriend them, keep and defend them,
Jesus our Saviour, this is our prayer.

2. And for those other, fathers and mothers,
children who hunger, they must be fed:
we would be caring, readily sharing,
one with another our daily bread.

3. Sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers,
we who together offer our praise:
hear our thanksgiving, God ever-living,
may we walk with you all of our days.

- Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith, OBE
Sung to "Bunessan," Hymnal 1982 #8