2021 Franco Composition Contest

The GCNA Johan Franco Committee is pleased to announce the 2021 Franco Composition Contest. Two monetary prizes ($1,500 for first place and $750 for second place) will be awarded, in addition to performance awards ($100) made solely at the Committee’s discretion. The GCNA will publish the first and second place compositions, and performance award compositions will be given the option of GCNA publication. All compositions awarded prizes and performance recognition will have the opportunity to be performed at the GCNA Congress in 2021.

Eligibility: The contest is open to all, regardless of age or nationality (except current members of the Franco Committee and first-prize winner of the previous Franco contest in 2019, Mathieu Daniel Polak).

Submissions: Composers are asked to submit works that are 5-10 minutes in length. Submissions must be original compositions, not arrangements or transcriptions of existing works. Each composer may submit only one work. The composition must be playable by a solo carillonneur on a four-octave carillon: 48 bells (c, d, ... chromatic to c4 with low C# omitted), with a 2-octave pedalboard (c, d, ... c2). Notating bells outside of this range is permitted provided that substitutions are given in the 48-bell range. Compositions that have already been performed or published are ineligible. Public performance of any winning composition prior to the 2021 GCNA congress will be grounds for disqualification.

Submissions must be received by November 1, 2020. Composers may submit works via email (preferred) to Thomas Lee, franco@gcna.org (for a mailing address, please email Thomas at franco@gcna.org). Submissions will be anonymized for the jury. Please do not include your name or any identifying information on the composition itself. Instead, please separately include your contact information.


Prizes: The jury guarantees the awarding of both First Prize and Second Prize. The jury reserves the right to award any number of Performance Awards. Each composition may only receive one of the three prizes.

First prize: $1,500. Premiered at the 2021 congress.

Performance Awards: $100. May be awarded at the discretion of the Franco Committee to any number of submitted compositions that, if the composer wishes, will be published and premiered at the 2021 congress.

Publication & Copyright: First & second prize-winning compositions will be published by the GCNA in accordance with its generally applicable rules. Thus, by entering the contest, entrants agree to sign over publishing rights to the GCNA if awarded first or second prize. Performance awards will be given the option for publication.

The composers who receive first prize or second prize will be required: (a) To assign to the GCNA all publication rights of the composition; and (b) To warrant to the GCNA that the composition does not violate any existing copyright in whole or in part, and that she/he/they have the lawful right to authorize publication of the composition. If the composer has any arrangement with any performing rights organizations, such as ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, SOCAN, and the like, the composer will be required to instruct the affiliated organization not to collect performance fees solely on the basis of this composition. (In some cases, this may entail waiving rights to performance royalties.) First and second prize-winning compositions will be published and distributed by the GCNA. Composers who receive Performance Awards will be offered publication with the GCNA if they wish. Compositions that do not win a prize will remain the sole property of the composer. Judges’ copies of the compositions will be destroyed following the contest.

The Jury: The seven voting members of the Franco Committee serve as the jury in this contest: Margaret Angelini, Wesley Arai, Joey Brink, Amy Johansen, Alex Johnson, Dave Johnson, and Tiffany Ng. The jury will evaluate submissions based on their effectiveness on the carillon, playability, originality, and general musical interest.

To preserve anonymity of the composers, we ask that composers refrain from contacting, directly or indirectly, any members of the jury. Questions may be directed to Thomas Lee at franco@gcna.org.

Results: All prize-winning compositions will be announced March 1, 2021.