



The Allport New Music Award Carol Composition Competition 2025

We are delighted to launch the inaugural Allport New Music Award as part of our first ever Carol Composition Competition. The winning entry will receive a **cash prize of £350**, the chance to **hear their piece in rehearsal** with the singers of Sestina Music, and a **premiere performance and recording** of their piece at our **Carols at Christmas Concert on Tuesday 16th December 2025**.

Guidelines

1. Entrants must be between 18-28 years old as of 17th December 2025
2. Entries are open to anyone from the UK/Ireland (evidence may be requested) or based in Ireland/Northern Ireland or Great Britain.
3. We ask all candidates to submit an initial registration of interest form (to be found on the Sestina website) by **10th October**.
4. Final composition submissions will then be **due by Friday 14th November**. Sheet music submissions will be accepted in pdf or other digital format and should be sent via email to info@sestinamusic.com. Sestina Music accepts no responsibility for any late/lost or misdirected entries.
5. Each entry should be accompanied by a covering letter/email, which includes the title of the work, composers name, date of birth and contact details, which should include an email address. This should be sent in the same email as the composition itself.
6. If the concert on the 16th December has to be cancelled or postponed due to any reasons beyond our control, every effort will be made to perform/record the winning entry at a future performance.
7. Sestina Music regrets that it cannot pay winner's travel/accommodation expenses incurred in attending the concert on Tuesday 16th December 2025.
8. We may require any prize winner to participate in promotional or publicity material and we will have the right to use any such material in any manner we see fit.

Artistic Guidelines

1. We ask candidates to take inspiration for their composition from Ireland, whether it be poetry, text, story, landscape etc.
2. Composers may use their own or others' words, but precise details of the source of the text must be provided. Text must be out of copyright.
3. Carols submitted should not have received a public performance, and the composition should be wholly original - not an arrangement of a pre-existing carol or melody.

4. Sestina Music shall have all rights in connection with the first public performance of the prize-winning carol, but thereafter the composer shall have all rights in respect of the carol.
5. Entries shall be judged by Artistic Director Malachy Frame, Composer Eoghan Desmond,, General Manager Charlotte O'Hare and Artistic Advisor and Northern Irish Tenor Aaron O'Hare.
6. The composition should be written for forces of SATB-SSAATTBB a capella vocal ensemble (up to 8 singers), and any configuration within this (eg. SSATB, SATTBB etc). We ask for pieces not to be written just for upper or lower voices.
6. The panel of judges reserves the right to request changes made to the winning composition if any aspect is deemed unsuitable for the ensemble.
7. Any language is permitted, but we request pronunciation guides for any language other than English, French, Italian or Latin.
8. The panel of judges regrets that individual feedback cannot be given to unsuccessful entrants.

Any questions regarding entry, submissions etc should be sent to **info@sestinamusic.com**.