

Advent Carol Composition Competition 2026 Terms and Conditions



1 Eligibility

- 1.1 The competition is open to composers of any age.
- 1.2 There is one open category.
- 1.3 Entry is free of charge.

2 Musical Specifications

- 2.1 The submitted work must be for SATB unaccompanied choir, with scope for limited divisi.
- 2.2 The duration of the work must be no longer than five (5) minutes.
- 2.3 The text must be suitable for an Advent Procession in an Anglican Cathedral setting.
- 2.4 Candidates may choose or generate their own text. If in doubt about its suitability, entrants may wish to choose from one of the following texts:
Adam lay ybounden, There is No Rose, A Tender Shoot
- 2.5 If one of the above texts is selected, entrants must use a definitive version available on the competition website.

3 Originality and Copyright

- 3.1 The work must be original and written only for this competition.
- 3.2 The work must not be a pre-existing composition and must therefore be unperformed and unpublished at the time of submission.
- 3.3 Copyright remains with the originator.

4 Submission Requirements

- 4.1 Entries must be submitted as fair copy scores in staff notation.
- 4.2 Submissions must be made electronically as a PDF (.pdf) file.
- 4.3 To ensure anonymous judging, the entrant's name must not appear or be discernible anywhere on the score.
- 4.4 A valid entry consists of one score submitted as a PDF file, and a completed electronic application form, available on the Wells Cathedral website.
- 4.5 The PDF score file must be named in the following format: [Surname]_[forename]_[score].pdf

4.6 Any entry that does not meet the stated specifications or is received after the stated deadline will be deemed invalid.

5 Deadline

5.1 All entries must be submitted electronically no later than Sunday 20 September 2026 at 5pm (BST).

6 Judging and Results

6.1 The panel of judges will consist of composers Joanna Marsh and Owain Park, together with Wells Cathedral's Director and Assistant Director of Music, Timothy Parsons and Carolyn Craig.

6.2 The decision of the judges shall be final.

6.3 No correspondence will be entered into regarding the judging process or outcome.

6.4 It is hoped that all entrants will be informed of the outcome by 12 October 2026.

6.5 A public announcement of the result will take place on 19 October 2026, at which time the prize will be awarded.

7 Prize

7.1 A prize of £1,500.00 will be awarded to the winning composer.

7.2 The prize will be awarded as a cash sum.

7.3 The winning composer is solely responsible for any taxes, duties, or other charges arising from receipt of the prize.

8 Performance and Attendance

8.1 The winning work will receive its world premiere performance by Wells Cathedral Choir as part of the Wells Cathedral Advent Procession on Sunday 29 November 2026

8.2 The winning composer will be invited and enabled to attend the performance. This will include provision of travel within the United Kingdom and one night's accommodation in Wells on the evening before (Saturday 28) or following (Sunday 29) the service.

9 Post Award Conditions

9.1 If, following the performance, it is discovered that the winning work is not original or is not the work of the stated composer, Wells Cathedral reserves the right to require the full return of the cash prize.