

FOCUS

The Venice Chorale Choral Composition Competition encourages and supports new choral music.

The Venice Chorale will select a composer to create a new work for SATB chorus, two-part children's chorus and piano using the provided text, "*Stars and Stripes*" by Brent Douglas, Music Director.

Interested composers will submit 2-3 samples of their existing choral music. A winning composer will be selected based on these samples and commissioned to create the new composition.

The completed work will receive its premiere by The Venice Chorale and Youth Choir on February 28, 2027.

PRIZE

\$1,000 Commission and Premiere Performance

The winning composer will receive a \$1,000 commission fee to compose a new setting of *Stars and Stripes* for SATB chorus, two-part children's chorus and piano.

The commissioned work will be premiered by The Venice Chorale and Youth Choir on February 28, 2027.

The \$1,000 commission will be paid as follows:

- \$500 upon selection and acceptance of the commission
- \$500 upon delivery and acceptance of the completed, performance-ready score by January 1, 2027

The \$1,000 commission represents the total fee paid to the composer for the creation and delivery of the commissioned work.

If the selected composer does not deliver a completed work meeting the stated requirements by the deadline, The Venice Chorale reserves the right to withhold the final payment and cancel the scheduled premiere.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 20, 2026 — Application and portfolio submission deadline

November 1, 2026 — Winner announced

January 1, 2027 — Completed, performance-ready score due

February 28, 2027 — Premiere performance

ELIGIBILITY

- Composers of all ages and nationalities are eligible.
- Each composer may submit one application for consideration.
- Applicants must submit 2–3 samples of original choral compositions that demonstrate their work as a composer.
- Portfolio works may have been previously performed, published, or self-published.

- Submitted samples do not need to use the exact voicing required for the commissioned composition.
- Preference will be given to portfolios demonstrating experience writing for SATB chorus, children's or treble voices, piano-accompanied choral music, and/or community and educational ensembles.
- The selected composer must agree to complete the commissioned work according to the requirements and schedule of the competition.

COMMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The winning composer will create a new and original setting of *Stars and Stripes*, lyrics by Brent Douglas, scored for:

SATB Adult Chorus
Two-Part Children's Chorus
Piano (two hands)

The completed composition should be approximately 2–4 minutes in duration.

The work should be appropriate for performance by a strong community chorus and children's chorus. Vocal writing should be effective, practical, and accessible while still demonstrating creativity and artistic distinction.

The piano accompaniment must be playable by one pianist using two hands.

The provided text should generally be set as written. Repetition of words or phrases for musical purposes is permitted. Significant alterations, additions, or omissions must receive prior approval from the lyricist.

The commissioned composition must be an original work that has not previously been published, self-published, or performed.

The winning composer will work with the Music Director of The Venice Chorale during the composition process. The Music Director may request reasonable revisions concerning vocal ranges, difficulty, balance, duration, text setting, or other practical performance considerations.

The completed, performance-ready score must be delivered no later than January 1, 2027.

JUDGING

Applications will be judged on:

- Creative strength and originality of musical ideas
- Excellence of compositional craft
- Effectiveness of choral and vocal writing
- Effectiveness and sensitivity of text setting
- Understanding of writing for community, educational, and/or youth ensembles
- Ability to create music that is artistically rewarding while remaining accessible to non-professional singers
- The committee's assessment of the composer's ability to create a compelling musical setting of *Stars and Stripes*

The decision of the judging committee is final.

The Venice Chorale reserves the right not to award the commission if no applicant is judged appropriate for the project.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All application materials must be received by October 20, 2026.

Applicants must submit:

- A completed competition application
- 2–3 PDF scores of original choral compositions
- An MP3 recording or digital/MIDI realization, when available, for each submitted score (optional)
- A composer biography of 150 words or less
- Brief information about each submitted composition (2-3 sentences)
- \$25 application fee (application fees are used for printing 100 copies for the performance)

Email all application materials, scores, recordings, and questions to:

Brent Douglas, Music Director

brentdouglas@thevenicechorale.org

The \$25 application fee should be paid by:

Check or Money Order, payable and mailed to:

The Venice Chorale, P.O. Box 1004, Venice FL 34284

OR

Zelle, pay to The Venice Chorale - treasurer@thevenicechorale.org

Please note "COMPOSITION" with last name on the memo line.

COMMISSION TEXT

STARS AND STRIPES Lyrics by Brent Douglas

Verse 1

From the redwoods standing tall,
From the white snow's crystal hue,
To the blue gulf and the oceans,
One land for me and you.
Past the canyons carved by rivers,
Past the fields of amber grain,
Hear the song of many voices
Rise across the land again.

Chorus

As the roads that stripe our landscape,
As the stars that guide our way,
We are woven all together
In the story of the day.
Across rivers, fields, and cities,
Through the night and through the dawn,
By the stars above our journey
And the roads that lead us on.

Verse 2

From the Great Lakes to the bayous,
From the deserts and plains so low,
Past the mountain peaks of granite
Where the winds of freedom blow.
See the bald eagle ascending,
See its shadow sweep the land,
Over forests, farms, and highways,
From the heartland to the sand.

Chorus

As the roads that stripe our landscape,
As the stars that guide our way,
We are woven all together
In the story of the day.
Across rivers, fields, and cities,
Through the night and through the dawn,
By the stars above our journey
And the roads that lead us on.

Verse 3

From the towns along the coastline,
To the cities bright with light,
Every road becomes a pathway,
Every star still shines at night.
Though our journeys may be different,
Still our hopes can make us one,
Many voices, one great chorus,
Rising with each morning sun.

RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION

The composer will retain copyright to the original music, and Brent Douglas, lyricist, will retain copyright to the lyrics of *Stars and Stripes*.

The winning composer will receive permission to use the lyrics for the creation of the commissioned work under the terms of this competition.

The completed musical setting of Stars and Stripes will be considered a collaborative work between the composer and lyricist for purposes of professional publication, licensing, and commercial distribution. Neither party may submit the completed work to a publisher, enter into a publishing agreement, or authorize commercial publication of the combined words and music without the written consent of the other.

For the combined words-and-music composition, ownership and royalties will be divided equally: 50% to the composer and 50% to Brent Douglas as lyricist. This 50/50 division will apply to royalties and other income attributable to the composition, subject to the terms and deductions of any future publishing, licensing or distribution agreement mutually approved by the composer and lyricist.

Any professional publishing agreement for the work must recognize the composer and Brent Douglas as the respective creators of the music and lyrics and preserve their 50/50 share of the writers' interests, unless both parties agree otherwise in writing.

The Venice Chorale will receive the right to premiere and perform the commissioned work and to make archival and promotional audio and video recordings of its performances.

Any future commercial recording, licensing, publication, arrangement or distribution of the combined composition and text will require the mutual agreement of the composer and lyricist.

ACCEPTANCE OF COMMISSION TERMS

By accepting the commission, the winning composer acknowledges and agrees to the composition requirements, delivery deadline, payment terms, rights, publication provisions and 50/50 division of writers' interests described above.