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# 'New Choral Composition Prize accepting entries'

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## Bel a cappella's inaugural Prize takes Australian music travelling

It feels more than slightly unusual to be writing about Sydney chamber choir Bel a cappella's planned tour to Northern Europe and the Baltic when we remain inside the protection of our own homes until these disconcerting times pass, but it's a year out, and the choir are excited. Excited both because this, their third international tour since 2015, will be a highlight of their 2021 calendar, marking Music Director Anthony Pasquill's 10 year anniversary with the choir, and because last week they launched an initiative linked to the tour that promises to showcase new Australian music to the world.



**The Bel a cappella Choral Composition Prize will award 3 Australian composers \$1500 each for original a cappella choral works for up to 8 voice parts.**

Each of the 3 winning works will have its world premiere in one of the cities in the 2021 tour (to be chosen by the awarded composer), including St Petersburg, Stockholm, Helsinki, Tallin and Riga. Their Australian premiere will be at the next concert Bel performs upon their return to Australia.

Pasquill believes that Australian choral music certainly has the capacity to match the depth and breadth of that being composed and performed in the traditional choral music countries of northern Europe and this Prize will give him and Bel a cappella the opportunity to demonstrate that.

The Prize money was raised through the very generous donations of supporters of the choir, via an Australian Cultural Fund campaign earlier this year. This fund, managed by Creative Partnerships Australia, was established by the Australian Government in 2003 to encourage donations to the arts. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible, and donors get the chance to make a real difference to the work of Australian artists.

Choir president Bruce Watson says, "When we launched our fundraising we were excited about creating an opportunity to bring new Australian choral music to the world. Now we also know we'll be supporting some local composers through this terrible time when so much work for musicians has vanished."

Bel a cappella believes their Choral Composition Prize will make a big difference to composers in this difficult time for the Arts across the globe, providing both a sense of creative purpose and significant prize money to the three awarded composers.

### **Bel a cappella Choral Composition Prize**

**ELIGIBILITY:** The Prize is open to any individual who is a permanent resident of Australia or Australian citizen. There is no age limit.

**PRIZE PERIOD OPENS:** April 1, 2020

**PRIZE PERIOD CLOSSES:** June 30, 2020

A panel of jurors will review entries and award the 3 Prizes on July 31, 2020



This project was made possible with the support of the Australian Cultural Fund

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**Information/ Web:** <https://belacappella.org.au/composition-prize>

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