New Songs and Hymns for Renewal
A Competition for Writers and Composers

United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, calls for new hymns and songs for renewal in the twenty-first century Christian church, congregation, and community. This competition will search for hymns/songs in three distinct categories (1) new text and tune (“Category One”), (2) new music for traditional hymn/song texts (“Category Two”), and (3) new hymn text for traditional hymn tune (“Category Three”). The prize for the winner of each category is set forth below.

If chosen as the winner of a category, the composer will allow United Theological Seminary to use his or her composition for a one-time live recorded performance during its Music Ministry Convocation and distribute, for gift and sale, an audio recording of the performance. All proceeds from the sale or distribution of the live recording will go to United Theological Seminary, but each winner will retain all rights to his or her composition for future publications and performances.

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CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS
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Category One: New Text and Tune

• Submission must be an original melody and text.
• Text must resonate with basic tenets of Christianity.
• Text theme must be church renewal and/or personal spiritual renewal.
• Song must have a minimum of three (3) stanzas in English. Alternate languages may be offered in addition to English stanzas.
• Melody must be written in metric balance with the text.
• Song can be written in one of the two styles:
  1. Traditional four-part harmony with Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. (Contact jwinston@united.edu for samples.)
  or
  2. Contemporary single-line melody for unison congregational singing. (Contact jwinston@united.edu for samples.)
  a. Must provide a basic keyboard accompaniment for solo line.
  b. Guitar chords may be offered in addition to keyboard accompaniment.

Category Two: New Music for Traditional Hymn/Song Text

• Submission must be an original melody composed for a traditional hymn text.
• Chosen text must resonate with the basic tenets of Christianity.
• Melody must be written in metric balance with the chosen text.
• Selected text cannot be altered.
• Text theme must be church renewal and/or personal spiritual renewal.
• Song can be written in one of the two styles:
  1. Traditional four-part harmony with Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. (Contact jwinston@united.edu for samples.)
or

Contemporary single-line melody for unison congregational singing. (Contact jwinston@united.edu for samples.)

a. Must provide a basic keyboard accompaniment for solo line.
b. Guitar chords may be offered in addition to keyboard accompaniment.

Category Three: New Hymn Text for Traditional Hymn Tune (see example 5)

- Submission must be an original text that is in metric balance with the chosen tune.
- Text must resonate with basic tenets of Christianity.
- Text theme must be church renewal and/or personal spiritual renewal.
- Must be a minimum of three (3) stanzas in English. Alternate languages may be offered in addition to English stanzas.
- Selected tune cannot be altered to fit text.

To be eligible, submission(s) must meet all the requirements for the respective category.

ITEMS TO SUBMIT

1) Hymn/song or text under one of the indicated categories. Each person may submit only one piece per category.
2) A completed application form. (LOCATION or link)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Only digital composition files accepted for each category (PDF, JPEG, Microsoft DOC, etc.)
  1. Email composition and application information to music@united.edu. You may either scan and attach the application or include the information in the body of your email.
  2. No handwritten scores will be accepted.
  3. United Theological Seminary offers digital scoring of handwritten manuscripts for a fee of $50.00. Items in need of digital scoring must be turned in by Friday, March 28, 2014. Please include a completed application form.
- Category Three submissions can be in poetic strophic form (see example 5).
- Submission deadline: Friday, April 25, 2014.
- All original material must be previously unpublished.
- Employees of United Theological Seminary are ineligible. Alumni/ae and students are encouraged to participate.

ADJUDICATION

- All pieces will be adjudicated by a five-person panel of musicians and/or theologians. All pieces will be adjudicated based on each category’s given rubric. A copy of the adjudication rubric will be provided upon request. Notwithstanding the use of the rubric, the adjudicators’ decision with respect to each category winner will be final and binding upon all participants.
- Composer’s name will be removed from the piece prior to being submitted to adjudicators.
MISCELLANEOUS

- Each category winner must execute an agreement and release with United Theological Seminary.
- Each category winner is responsible for any federal, state or local taxes associated with their prize.