

Tenso

The European Network of Professional Chamber Choirs



FINAL call for young composers

– top prize to include a commission and several performances –

The development of new choral repertoire is one of Tenso's primary missions. In the coming years, the network will organize a series of workshops under the direction of composer/conductor James Wood and with the participation of professional choirs, to stimulate young composers to write for chamber choir. Using (fragments of) a score as starting point, the goal of the workshops is to make room for a significant contribution from all participants and to explore various elements such as dramatic effects, vocal range and colour, text setting, and other compositional tools.

2010/2011 Workshops: the choir as instrument

Six young composers will be invited to come to the 2010 Tenso Days in Oslo (part of Ultima Festival). During two sessions, they will work on small fragments of a choral score with the Latvijas Radio Koris, composer/conductor **James Wood** and conductor **Kaspars Putniņš**. Two or three of the composers will be selected for a follow-up workshop to take place in the spring of 2011 (date and location tba), where they will have the opportunity to work in more detail on a new composition for chamber choir. A jury consisting of the artistic directors and conductors of the Tenso network choirs will finally award a commission to one composer, who will be asked to write a new work to be performed in the 2011/2012 season by several Tenso choirs.

Who can apply?

Composers under 30, or composers who have recently (less than two years) received a degree in composition at a music academy or conservatory

How to apply?

- Send electronically, in PDF format, two scores (preferably for small ensembles and/or choir, and at least one vocal work) to info@tenso-vocal.eu
- References from teachers or performers are welcome but not obligatory.
- The (extended) deadline is 5 September 2010.

Selection for first round

A jury will select six composers to be invited to Oslo for two sessions on September 16 and 17, 2010. Those selected will be asked to bring a short piece or fragment(s) of a piece for chamber choir (S/A/T/B) with the following criteria:

- max 8 parts (separate voices)
- max 3 minutes

Accommodation and travel

Hotel and travel to Oslo will be arranged for the selected composers. In addition, the participants will receive a passpartout for the Tenso concerts during the Ultima festival (see www.ultima.no)

More information?

Please contact us at info@tenso-vocal.eu or call Babette Greiner at + 31 6 1467 1313.

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Tenso

Tenso is the European network for professional chamber choirs. It was founded in 2002 by conductors Laurence Equilbey and Daniel Reuss in order to reinforce, extend and promote choral practice in Europe and to contribute to the creation of new, innovative repertoire and ways to present it.

By combining the joint efforts and achievements of the most prominent European chamber choirs and making their results available within the context of a European network, Tenso wants to contribute to the active heritage of choir music in Europe. By involving amateur and youth choirs in their projects, the spin-off is extended to the large community of choral singers and audiences for choral music all over Europe.

Tenso activities

- collect and publicize the work done by member choirs in the creation, discovery and distribution of existing and new repertoire for chamber choir, and make it available via internet
- commission new music for chamber choir from the most outstanding living European composers
- organize expertise exchange on several subjects of choir management, such as cooperation with amateurs and children and innovative multi-disciplinary projects
- organize expertise exchange for singers and conductors
- organize the annual edition of the Tenso Days, an international choir festival aimed at a large and general audience of music lovers, hosted in turn by the members of the network. The next edition will be hosted by the Ultima Festival in Oslo, September 2010

current members

- chœur de chambre accentus (Paris FR)
- Cappella Amsterdam (NL)
- Latvijas Radio Koris (Riga LV)
- Musicatreize (Marseille)
- Nederlands Kamerkoor (Amsterdam NL)
- Det Norske Solistkor (Oslo NO)
- Rias Kammerchor (Berlin DE)

The Tenso choirs perform at the top concert venues all over Europe. They all produce their own *a capella* concert series, and perform regularly with the best European ensembles and orchestras. The choirs premiere new works by today's most important composers such as Jonathan Harvey, Wolfgang Rihm, Kaija Saariaho, Arvo Pärt, Mauricio Kagel, Harrison Birtwistle and James MacMillan

