

ISCM Young Composers Award Procedures

1. Description and Purpose:

It is the aim of the ISCM to promote exposure, research, and performance of contemporary music on an international scale, and to showcase diversity in musical creation, without prejudice to differences in musical expressions, styles, genres or media; nor regarding race, religion or politics. The annual ISCM Young Composers Award (YCA) is an important facet in these ongoing activities.

At each ISCM World Music Days Festival an international jury, constituted from the ISCM membership, carefully considers all works performed during the festival written by composers age 35 or under, and selects a single composer to receive the ISCM Young Composers Award. The winner is granted a monetary prize and a commission for a new piece to be performed at a future World Music Days Festival.

Through this award, ISCM is making a meaningful and lasting contribution to the depth and breadth of contemporary music repertoire, as well as providing support and encouragement to the most promising emerging composers of our time.

2. Eligible Composers:

2.1. To be eligible, a composer must:

2.1.1. have one or more works performed on the current ISCM World Music Days Festival.

2.1.2. be living and aged 35 years or younger on the day of performance.

2.1.3. be included on the official list of eligibility provided to ISCM by the hosts and printed in the festival program booklet.

2.1.4. not have been a previous recipient of this award.

2.2. Normally, only individuals are eligible. Works composed collaboratively will be considered for eligibility through joint decision by the organizers, the YCA Coordinator, and the Executive Committee.

2.3. All programmed composers meeting these qualifications will be notified of their eligibility, and to the obligations associated with winning, prior to the festival. Those who wish to remove themselves from consideration may do so.

3. Jury Selection and Makeup:

3.1. A general call for jurors will be made at each General Assembly of the ISCM. Jurors must have an official status with ISCM (delegate, honorary member, member of section, etc.).

3.2. From the available pool of respondents, the Executive Committee, in consultation with the YCA Coordinator, will appoint a jury.

3.3. The jury will normally be comprised of three individuals, selected so as to represent *as much diversity as possible* (geographic, gender, style, discipline, profession, etc.).

- 3.4. Individuals cannot serve on the jury two consecutive years.
- 3.5. When necessary, the Executive Committee may make any changes to the makeup of the jury that they deem expedient and appropriate to the success of the award, and the needs of ISCM.
- 3.6. The appointed jury, along with the YCA Coordinator, will constitute the YCA “working group” for that year.

4. YCA Coordinator:

Exercising its power to assign and delegate duties as needed for the ongoing operation of the society, the Executive Committee may appoint an individual to oversee the administration of the YCA. This individual serves *pro bono* as organizer for the YCA “working group” for an unspecified term and reports directly to the President and Executive Committee.

5. Award Details:

- 5.1. The amount of the award may vary from year to year, and it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to solicit partners to ensure that the prize is appropriate to the stature of such an auspicious international society.
- 5.2. The Executive Committee will assist the selected composer in communicating with organizers of upcoming WMD festivals to identify appropriate timelines, instrumentation, duration, etc. They will maintain an ongoing dialogue with both parties to assure that satisfactory progress is being made toward successful completion.
- 5.3. When the new work is completed, it will be highlighted in the festival program booklet and some official announcement or presentation will be made to acknowledge the significance of the commission and the resulting work.

6. Timeline:

- 6.1. To be completed nine to twelve months prior to the festival:
 - 6.1.1. ExCom solicits ISCM membership for potential jurors.
 - 6.1.2. ExCom appoints a jury.
 - 6.1.3. Host of festival provides an official list (with contact information) of eligible composers.
 - 6.1.4. Host provides event details for the official announcement of the YCA winner during the festival.
- 6.2. To be completed six to nine months prior to the festival:
 - 6.2.1. YCA Coordinator sends letters of appointment to jury members confirming their participation, and outlining the associated obligations.
 - 6.2.2. Host of festival provides schedule of all performances of eligible works. Jurors will need to make travel arrangements appropriately to be present at all necessary performances.
 - 6.2.3. YCA Coordinator notifies all eligible composers with an official letter informing them that they will be considered for this prize, and encouraging them to make every attempt to attend the festival. They will be apprised of the obligations associated with winning the award, and be

given the opportunity to remove themselves from consideration if they wish. This letter will also include details about when the winner will be announced.

6.2.4. ExCom will issue a press release announcing all eligible composers. This will be disseminated through ISCM website, social media, other outlets, and should include date and location of when the winner will be announced.

6.3. To be completed once registration opens for the festival:

6.3.1. YCA Coordinator coordinates with jury members and host organizers to ensure that lodging has been provided for jury members and travel plans have been made so as to allow for jurors to attend all necessary performances.

6.3.2. Hosts will provide the YCA Coordinator with electronic access to all available scores and recordings of eligible pieces.

6.4. To be completed during festival:

6.4.1. Jurors evaluate eligible pieces, deliberate, and select a recipient (see judging procedures below).

6.4.2. Public presentation of the award by ExCom, jurors, and YCA Coordinator.

6.4.3. Public acknowledgement is made at the performance of any previous YCA commission.

6.5. To be completed immediately following the festival:

6.5.1. ExCom produces an official announcement about the winner. This will be disseminated through the ISCM website, member section websites, social media, and other avenues. It will also be provided to arts organizations and press outlets local to the selected composer.

6.5.2. YCA Coordinator will officially notify all eligible composers (via email) regarding the outcome.

6.5.3. ExCom will provide official letter of thanks to each of the jurors, acknowledging their service and the value of their contribution to the society.

6.5.4. Jury will make recommendations regarding any suggested changes to the YCA policies and procedures.

7. Responsibilities of the various parties (refer to section 6 for additional details):

7.1. Festival host:

7.1.1. Assemble an official list of eligible pieces to be provided to the ExCom, as well as printed in the festival program booklet.

7.1.2. Provide ExCom with details regarding the date and time of the award presentation and include it in program booklet. In order to present the award during the festival, organizers should, as much as possible, avoid programming eligible pieces at the very end of the festival. Where this is not possible, the ExCom may (at its discretion), opt to forego a presentation during the festival, or (alternatively) designate a piece ineligible.

- 7.1.3. Provide lodging for jurors and YCA Coordinator for a duration sufficient to allow them to attend all eligible performances and the award presentation.
- 7.1.4. Make scores and recordings available to jurors.
- 7.1.5. Ensure that it is practical for jurors to attend all eligible pieces by not scheduling them concurrently.
- 7.1.6. Acknowledge previous YCA commissions in the festival program booklet.
- 7.2. Executive Committee:
 - 7.2.1. Solicit ongoing partners to provide financial stability to the award.
 - 7.2.2. Appoint YCA Coordinator. In the event that the ExCom chooses to forego this appointment, all the duties listed in section 7.3 would also be incumbent upon the members of the ExCom.
 - 7.2.3. Solicit ISCM membership for potential jurors.
 - 7.2.4. Appoint jury (in consultation with YCA Coordinator).
 - 7.2.5. Publish press release listing all eligible composers.
 - 7.2.6. Present award during festival.
 - 7.2.7. Publish an official announcement of the outcome of the award.
 - 7.2.8. Provide a letter of thanks to the jurors.
 - 7.2.9. Coordinate with winning composer to plan completion and premiere of commissioned piece.
 - 7.2.10. Provide payment of commission award to the composer.
- 7.3. YCA Coordinator:
 - 7.3.1. Work with ExCom in selection of jurors.
 - 7.3.2. Send letters of appointment to jurors.
 - 7.3.3. Notify all qualified composers of their eligibility and provide them the opportunity to withdraw if desired.
 - 7.3.4. Assist with ensuring that travel and housing arrangements have been made to allow jurors to be present at all necessary performances.
 - 7.3.5. Coordinate activities of jury during festival.
 - 7.3.6. Assist with presentation of award.
 - 7.3.7. Notify all eligible composers of the outcome of the award.
 - 7.3.8. Provide ongoing administrative organization and oversight of YCA program as needed.
- 7.4. Jurors:
 - 7.4.1. Agree to be present at all necessary performances as well as the award presentation. Travel plans should be made accordingly.
 - 7.4.2. Agree to work collaboratively to select a recipient of the award.
 - 7.4.3. Agree to deliberate without prejudice or favoritism.
 - 7.4.4. Participate in presentation of award.
 - 7.4.5. Make recommendations about revisions to the policies and procedures of the award.
- 7.5. Selected Composer:
 - 7.5.1. Accept the award in person (if they are able to attend).
 - 7.5.2. Acknowledge his/her acceptance of the award, and the associated responsibilities, in writing.

- 7.5.3. Coordinate with ExCom and future WMD hosts to establish parameters for new piece.
- 7.5.4. Produce finished product in a timely manner working in collaboration with ExCom and performers.

8. Procedures for the Jury

8.1. Guiding Statement:

This is a commissioning award, not necessarily a prize for the best composition. The jury should select a winner it feels confident can produce a new work of high quality that will reflect well on ISCM. It should base this decision on all the evidence available to it (performance, reception, score, recording, written material, etc.), but emphasis should be given to the performance and reception of the piece as performed during the World Music Days Festival.

For this reason, it is very important that all jury members attend the performance of every eligible piece.

This prize can be awarded to any composer, without preference for any style, genre, medium, or discipline.

It is inevitable that jurors will be required to evaluate pieces either by composers who are from their sections, or who they know personally. As with the Executive Committee, the members of the jury are reminded that they are responsible solely to the society in the exercise of their duties. In particular, they shall be independent of the Sections from which they come, and are required to deliberate without prejudice or favoritism.

The unique and broad nature of the ISCM Young Composer Award necessitates that it will not always be possible to predict many aspects of the procedure from year to year. The jury, and the YCA Coordinator (if any), may ask the Executive Committee for clarification on any point of ambiguity and, when needed, make its own judgments as to the fairest and most expedient way to proceed. Under no circumstances should the jury allow unforeseen circumstances or complications to derail the process or bring about an impasse. It is their primary duty to work collaboratively to arrive at a positive outcome.

8.2. The Judging Process:

- 8.2.1. Upon arrival, the jury will meet with the YCA Coordinator to receive its instructions.
- 8.2.2. As works are heard, jurors will rate each piece (1-10 with 10 as the highest), and also make comments regarding strengths/weaknesses. It is important that they do BOTH of these things, even on pieces they feel are inferior. During the deliberation process, another juror may advocate for that piece and detailed notes and rankings will be necessary to inform

the deliberation process. Also, the jury must generate a summary statement about the qualities of the winning piece (see 8.2.3.3).

8.2.3. Following the performance of the last eligible piece, the jurors will convene with the YCA Coordinator and deliberate as follows:

8.2.3.1. Each juror will present a list of his/her top SIX works (unranked) and the YCA Coordinator will tally them. If it immediately becomes evident that there is a clear leader, then that composer will be the winner.

8.2.3.2. If it is not clear, then the jury members will proceed to discuss and deliberate (using their notes and ratings) until a decision is reached.

8.2.3.3. Once a winner has been selected, the jurors will collectively produce a short description (2-3 sentences) that highlights the reasons the work was selected. This is important as it will be announced during the presentation, and included in any press releases afterwards.

8.2.4. Once a decision has been made, the YCA Coordinator will communicate this to the ExCom and an official document will be drawn up for the award presentation.