

Tenso Young Composers Workshop 2015

call for young composers



Tenso, the European Network for professional chamber choirs, organizes 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.

2015 workshops

Five young composers will be invited to join us in Mechelen (Belgium) from 15 to 17 May 2015 for the Tenso Days. During two sessions, they will work on (fragments of) a choral score with ensemble [Musicatreize](#), composer/conductor [James Wood](#) and composer [Leo Samama](#). The name of the third coach will be announced in March.

Two or three of the composers will be selected for a follow-up workshop in the autumn of 2015, where they will have the opportunity to work in more detail on a new composition for chamber choir. A jury consisting of artistic directors and conductors of Tenso choirs will finally award a commission to one composer, who will be asked to write a new work to be performed in the 2016/2017 season by Tenso choirs.

The Tenso Young Composers Workshop wants to help promising young composers to take the step to writing for choir. Rather than giving confirmation to those who have already shown their skills in writing choral music, we especially want to give encouragement and practical support to those who have not.

Who can apply?

Composers under 30 (born in or after 1985), or composers who have recently (after 1 July 2012) received a degree in composition at a music academy or conservatory.

How to apply?

- Send two scores in PDF format to workshop@tensonetwork.eu, together with the application form.
- One score should be a work for chamber ensemble (max 8 instruments / parts), the other should be a work for voice (with or without accompaniment)
- The title of the pdf files should contain the (family) name of the composer (example: yourlastname_titleof thepiece.pdf).
- The maximum size of any file is 2 Mb; larger files will not be accepted.
- References from teachers or performers are welcome but not obligatory. Only pdf's will be accepted.
- Emails with attached sound files, and files in other formats than pdf, will not be accepted
- Links to websites where more information, sound files, video etc can be found are welcomed - put them in the application form.
- The accompanying email should contain name, age, names of attached files
- Applications that do not comply to these conditions will not be reviewed !
- The deadline is 10 March 2015 18:00 hrs CET.

Selection for first round

A jury will select five composers to be invited to Mechelen for two sessions on 15 and 17 May 2015. Those selected will be asked to bring a short piece of max. 3 minutes — or fragment(s) of a piece — for a capella chamber choir (S/A/T/B), max. 12 parts (separate voices), max. 12 singers.

Accommodation and travel

Hotel and travel to Mechelen (from an airport in Europe) will be arranged for the selected composers. In addition, the participants will be able to join the Tenso seminars and attend the concerts at the Festival van Vlaanderen / Mechelen hoort stemmen (www.festivalmechelen.be).

More information?

Please contact us at info@tensonetwork.eu or call project manager Babette Greiner at + 31 6 1467 1313.

Tenso Network Europe



Tenso is the European network for professional chamber choirs. In Tenso Network Europe, the joint efforts and achievements of the most prominent European chamber choirs are combined and disseminated within the context of a growing European network. As of 2014 the network counts 15 members from 11 European countries.

The network was founded in 2003 by *choeur de chambre accentus* (FR), *Latvijas Radio Koris* (LV), *Nederlands Kamerkoor* (NL) and *RIAS Kammerchor* (DE). Since then, members have collaborated in developing the choral repertoire, coaching young performers and composers, and presenting new choral music to large audiences in the Tenso Days festivals. 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 training activities for young singers, composers and performers
- 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 editions will be hosted by Festival van Vlaanderen / Mechelen hoort stemmen (BE) in May 2013 and Musicatreize / Marseille Cultural Capital of Europe (FR) in September 2013

Tenso members

- Ars Nova Copenhagen (DK)
- *choeur de chambre accentus* (FR)
- Cappella Amsterdam (NL)
- Collegium Vocale Gent (BE)
- Cor de Cambra del Palau de la Música (ES)
- Coro Casa da Música (PT)
- DR Vokalensemble (DK)
- Eric Ericssons Kammarkör (SE)
- Helsingin kamarikuoro (FI)
- Latvijas Radio Koris (LV)
- Musicatreize (FR)
- Nederlands Kamerkoor (NL)
- Det Norske Solistkor (NO)
- Rias Kammerchor (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, James MacMillan and others.

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