

Bells of the Sound 2024 Composition Contest

Sounds of Nature



Bells of the Sound, a community handbell ensemble from the greater Seattle area, announces its seventh composition contest - *Sounds of Nature*. Contest entries should be original compositions or new arrangements inspired by the natural world. We are looking for music animated by wide landscapes, sun-dappled forests, or moments of pastoral tranquility, uniquely conceived and expressed. Winning compositions will be premiered at the Bells of the Sound annual spring concert series in 2025.

Awards will be given for:

First Place - \$1,250
Second Place - \$650

Please mail your entries to:

Wendy McPhetres
6073 Sycamore Ln. NE
Bremerton, WA. 98311

Or e-mail to WKMCP@aol.com

Submissions must include:

Cover letter with name, address, e-mail, phone
Manuscript - with no personal identification
Bells/chimes used chart
Audio file - with no personal identification
Permissions from copyright holder for arrangements

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES - AUGUST 15, 2024

Bells of the Sound 2024 Composition Contest

Sounds of Nature



Sounds of Nature Contest Rules

Deadline	August 15, 2024	
Prizes	\$1,250	First place
	\$ 650	Second place

Send your submission with a cover letter to our blind trust:

Wendy McPhetres
6073 Sycamore Ln. NE
Bremerton, WA. 98311

Submissions may be made electronically to Wendy McPhetres:

E-mail: WKMCP@aol.com

Direct any questions about the contest to Wendy McPhetres, via email or phone: (360) 286-9002 (Monday through Friday 9-5 PST)

Rules for Composition Contest

1. Submissions must be appropriate for the theme of "Sounds of Nature."
2. Submissions must be postmarked by August 15, 2024.
3. Submissions must include a separate cover letter with the contestant's personal information including name, address, e-mail address and telephone number. No personal identification should appear anywhere on the manuscript.
4. Submissions are to be written for performance on up to 7 octaves of bells:
 - a. C2 through C9, covering 3 octaves below middle C to 4 octaves above middle C.
 - b. Submissions may include choorchimes or other types of bells.
 - c. Submissions may include any accompaniment instrumentation and Bells of the Sound will make every attempt to secure the instrument and musician to play through the piece. Bells of the Sound has easy access to the following instruments: piccolo, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone (soprano, alto,

- tenor, or baritone), voice or small vocal ensemble, piano/keyboard, hand percussion, trap set.
5. The composition should be presented with standard handbell notation and in portrait format, with middle C# and below in bass clef and Db and above in treble. A bells/chimes used chart must be included. Any questions about notation should be directed to Wendy McPhetres, who will refer to the Handbell Musicians of America Handbell and Handchime Notation Guide.

This website lists standard handbell notation:

<http://www.handbellworld.com/music/HandbellNotation.cfm>

The notation guide may be purchased at this website: <https://handbellmusicians.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/NotationGuide.pdf>

6. Submissions may be of any level of difficulty.
7. Submissions may be either original compositions or arrangements.
8. All arrangements must be accompanied by documentation certifying that permission to make and publish an arrangement has been granted by the copyright holder. If the original work is now in the public domain, the composer must cite the publication date of the original score from which the arrangement was made. If the original work is an anonymous tune or folk melody, the composer must cite an authority which has declared the tune in the public domain and therefore freely available.
9. Composers must include an audio file with the submission. This can be submitted electronically via e-mail to Wendy McPhetres.
10. Previously published works, works that have been performed in concert, or works under consideration for publication are not eligible.

Judging:

1. All submissions postmarked by August 15, 2024, will be played through and judged by Bells of the Sound.
2. Bells of the Sound membership will vote on each piece using the following criteria:
 - a. Audience appeal
 - b. Adherence to the theme
 - c. Musicality
 - d. Creativity
 - e. Playability
3. Winners will be announced by January 16, 2025.
4. Members and substitutes of Bells of the Sound are not eligible for first or second place. They may submit selections to the contest for critical review, but must announce their entry prior to the first round of voting/ranking. If Bells of the Sound decides to perform a composition submitted by a member or substitute in the "Sounds of Nature" concert series, an Honorable Mention will be given to the composer with no cash award.

Bells of the Sound reserves the right to:

1. The first performance of any titles submitted.
2. Not award any or all of the prizes if, in the opinion of the membership, there are no worthy submissions.
3. Make and retain necessary copies of all submitted compositions.
4. Request or make changes to compositions.
5. Record the submission in audio and/or video format without further compensation.

Composer has the right to:

1. Hold the copyright for the composition and submit the composition for publication. If published, any prize-winning composition shall include the phrase "2024 Bells of the Sound Composition Contest Winner" in the dedication line with appropriate award designation.
2. Receive a copy of archive recording (not for sale) of a performance of their piece, if it is performed by Bells of the Sound.
3. Receive a complete list of submissions, composers and winners.

Other items:

If Bells of the Sound decides to perform any of the submissions not awarded first or second place, an Honorable Mention will be given to the composer. Composers of such pieces, with the exception of members and substitutes of Bells of the Sound, will receive a \$100 cash award. If this piece is published, this award must be mentioned in the dedication line.