

PRESS RELEASE (for immediate release)

Laudemus! Composition Competition

A new competition for UK composers aged under thirty on 31 January 2024 has been announced by **Laudemus!**, an adult SATB choir and charity which meets annually to sing Choral Evensong in churches throughout Dorset.

The Trustees are seeking submissions of an anthem between 2½ and 4 minutes in length, with a text of a religious nature, scored for competent SATB choir with organ accompaniment. **A single prize of £1,000** will be awarded, plus performance by Laudemus! during August 2024. **Publication is offered by the Royal School of Church Music**, subject to approval of the winning work. The closing date for receipt of scores is 31 January 2024.

Entries should be submitted in PDF form by email to laudemus@aol.com. Scores should be anonymous, with the applicant's details being included in the accompanying email. **Full Terms & Conditions can be found on the choir's website: www.laudemus.org.uk.**

The four-person adjudicating panel will comprise **Barry Rose** (former director of music at Guildford, St Paul's and St Albans cathedrals), **Jeremy Jackman** (composer, conductor and musical director of Laudemus), **Sam Hanson** (Director of Music, St Peter, Hammersmith and organist for Laudemus) and **Tim Ruffer** (Head of Publications, Royal School of Church Music).

This initiative has been warmly welcomed by significant figures in the world of choral music. **Composer John Rutter**, whose carols and anthems are beloved by choirs everywhere, said: 'Young composers will relish this great opportunity to make a mark in the world of church music – all power to this Laudemus! venture.'

Conductor Ralph Allwood MBE, founder of the Eton Choral Courses and now Artistic Director of the Rodolfus Foundation, has long been a champion of Choral Evensong: 'This new competition will help enormously in the efforts to get people to take sacred music seriously, and particularly music for the wonderful service known as Choral Evensong. Evensong is an astonishingly valuable asset with thousands of people involved in its production, day after day, and I wholeheartedly support this endeavour by Laudemus! to raise its profile.'

Further information for editors:

1. **Laudemus!** comprises experienced adult choral singers who meet for a week each summer to sing Choral Evensong in Dorset country churches. The repertoire changes daily and spans 16th to 21st centuries. More details are available on the Laudemus! website www.laudemus.org.uk or from the choir administrator, Marianne Barton.
Email laudemus@aol.com ; mobile 07957 648758
2. **Jeremy Jackman**, Musical Director of Laudemus!, is a vastly experienced musical director, choir trainer and composer, whose work in the field of vocal/choral music is of the highest international standard. A member for 10 years of the acclaimed King's Singers, Jeremy is now in great demand as a conductor and workshop director.
Email jeremyjackman@btinternet.com; phone 020 8341 3408; website www.jeremyjackman.co.uk
3. The **Royal School of Church Music**, enabling the flourishing of church music in Christian worship.
www.rscm.org.uk
4. Images available on request.