



**NOVELLO**  
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ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE



## The Gesualdo Six Composition Competition 2016

Composers are invited to submit a new work for The Gesualdo Six's inaugural Composition Competition. The winning works will be premiered by the group at St John's Smith Square on Sunday 19 June 2016 and will be considered for publication by Novello & Co Ltd, part of the Music Sales Group of Companies. A prize fund of £1000 is available.

### About the competition

Composers are invited to set one of the texts printed below, with the final a cappella composition lasting between four and six minutes in total. Successful compositions will take into account the vocal requirements of the ensemble.

This competition is open to all composers, divided into two age categories: 18 years and under, and 19 years and above. The deadline for submissions is Friday 15 April 2016 at 5pm.

2016 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's death, and the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gesualdo's birth. Works by Shakespeare and words set by Gesualdo make up some of the chosen texts, alongside poems by Christina Rossetti and Emily Brontë.

The competition is supported by St John's Smith Square and Novello & Co Ltd, part of the Music Sales Group of Companies.

### About the ensemble

Established in March 2014, The Gesualdo Six are a vocal sextet specialising in the performance of renaissance polyphony, directed by Owain Park. Since its formation, the group have performed live on BBC Radio 3, completed a busy UK summer tour and recorded their first album. The Gesualdo Six are St John's Smith Square Young Artists 2015-2016.



## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. Entrants are required to submit a setting of one of the six texts printed within this document.
2. The work should be scored for six unaccompanied male voices (AATTBarB).
3. The work should ideally last between four and six minutes based on a metronome mark given at the head of the composition, but works of shorter length than this will be considered.
4. Scores may be handwritten or computer-set but in any case should be suitable for performance without further typesetting. Entries must not bear the name of the composer but should use a pseudonym (or a random code of letters/numbers).
5. The competition is open to composers of any nationality and of any age.
6. Only one application per composer will be considered.

## SUBMISSIONS

1. Submissions should be sent by post to: Owain Park, Trinity College, Cambridge, CB2 1TQ.
2. The composer should use a pseudonym (or code) on the printed score.
3. Two unbound copies of the score should be sent.
4. The application form below should be completed, and should be enclosed with a copy of the first page of music from the score in a separate sealed envelope marked clearly with the pseudonym used.
5. The deadline for submissions is **Friday 15 April 2016 at 5pm**.

## RANGE CHART

This chart shows the approximate comfortable ranges for members of The Gesualdo Six.

The range chart displays the approximate comfortable ranges for six male voices, arranged in two columns. Each voice part is represented by a five-line musical staff with a treble or bass clef and a single note indicating the range.

- Alto (left column, top staff):** Treble clef, note on the second line (G4).
- Alto (left column, middle staff):** Treble clef, note on the second space (A4).
- Tenor (left column, bottom staff):** Treble clef, note on the second space (A4).
- Tenor (right column, top staff):** Treble clef, note on the second space (A4).
- Baritone (right column, middle staff):** Bass clef, note on the first space (G3).
- Bass (right column, bottom staff):** Bass clef, note on the first space (G3).

## **PRIZE FUND**

1. A prize fund of £1000 is available, to be allocated at the panel's discretion.
2. In the event of a winning entry in both categories, the prizes will be split accordingly:
  - 18 years and under: £400
  - 19 years and above: £600

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. The work must be original and the entry form signed with the written guarantee that it is solely the work of the composer.
2. The work must not have had a public performance, nor a recording that is publicly available (whether commercial or not), nor a broadcast of any sort.
3. The competition will be judged by a specially convened panel including John Rutter, Stephen Layton, Kate Johnson, Owain Park and members of The Gesualdo Six.
4. The winner(s) will be notified by the end of April 2016; the first performance will be given on Sunday 19 June 2016 at 3pm at St John's Smith Square.
5. The panel reserves the right to withhold the prize(s).
6. In all matters relating to the competition the decision of the panel is final and no correspondence regarding the result will be entertained, apart from the winning entrants.
7. Scores are sent at entrants' own risk. On your request, we can acknowledge receipt of scores but we are unable to return any material submitted.
8. Personal details on the entry form will be processed according to Data Protection Act 1998. The winning entrant(s) is/are expected to take part in post-competition publicity and to agree to their name(s) being made publicly known.
9. All entrants will be notified of the outcome by email or post by the end of April 2016.
10. The winning entrant(s) must grant permission to The Gesualdo Six to make the first recording of the winning piece(s) and to perform the work(s) in public for no extra fee.

## TEXTS

Translations included where necessary

### 1. From 'Twelfth Night'

*William Shakespeare*

Come away, come away, death,  
And in sad cypress let me be laid.  
Fly away, fly away, breath,  
I am slain by a fair cruel maid.  
My shroud of white, stuck all with yew,  
O prepare it!  
My part of death, no one so true  
Did share it.

Not a flower, not a flower sweet  
On my black coffin let there be strown.  
Not a friend, not a friend greet  
My poor corpse, where my bones shall be thrown.  
A thousand thousand sighs to save,  
Lay me, O, where  
Sad true lover never find my grave  
To weep there!

\* \* \*

### 2. From 'The Merchant of Venice'

*William Shakespeare*

Tell me where is fancy bred.  
Or in the heart or in the head?  
How begot, how nourishèd?

Reply, reply.

It is engendered in the eyes,  
With gazing fed, and fancy dies  
In the cradle where it lies.  
Let us all ring fancy's knell  
I'll begin it.—Ding, dong, bell.

Ding, dong, bell.

### 3. Fall, leaves, fall

*Emily Brontë*

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;  
Lengthen night and shorten day;  
Every leaf speaks bliss to me  
Fluttering from the autumn tree.

I shall smile when wreaths of snow  
Blossom where the rose should grow;  
I shall sing when night's decay  
Ushers in a drearier day.

\* \* \*

### 4. A Birthday

*Christina Rossetti*

My heart is like a singing bird  
Whose nest is in a water'd shoot;  
My heart is like an apple-tree  
Whose boughs are bent with thickset fruit;  
My heart is like a rainbow shell  
That paddles in a halcyon sea;  
My heart is gladder than all these  
Because my love is come to me.

Raise me a dais of silk and down;  
Hang it with vair and purple dyes;  
Carve it in doves and pomegranates,  
And peacocks with a hundred eyes;  
Work it in gold and silver grapes,  
In leaves and silver fleurs-de-lys;  
Because the birthday of my life  
Is come, my love is come to me.

5. Judas mercator pessimus

*From the Tenebrae Responsories for Maundy Thursday, No. 5*

Judas mercator pessimus  
osculo petiit Dominum  
ille ut agnus innocens  
non negavit Judae osculum.

*Judas, the vile merchant,  
required a kiss from the Lord  
who, like an innocent Lamb,  
did not deny the kiss to Judas.*

Denariorum numero  
Christum Judaeis tradidit.

*For a number of coins  
he betrayed Christ to the Jews.*

Melius illi erat  
si natus non fuisset.

*It would have been better for him,  
had he not been born.*

\* \* \*

6. Felice primavera

*Giovanni Battista Guarini*

Felice primavera  
De bei pensier fiorisce nel mio core  
Novo lauro d'Amore  
A cui ride la terra e il Ciel d'intorno,  
E di bel manto adorno  
Di Giacinti e viole il Pò si veste.

*Happy Spring!  
Joyful thoughts cause Love's new laurels  
to flourish within my heart,  
and heaven and earth smile at the sight  
while the Po adorns its banks  
with a fine mantle of hyacinths and violets.*

Danzan le Ninfe oneste e i Pastorelli  
E i susurranti Augelli in fra le fronde  
Al mormorar dell'onde e vaghi fiori  
Donan le grazie à i pargoletti amori.

*The honest nymphs and shepherds dance  
and amid the leaves the birds softly sing  
above the murmuring water, and the  
Graces give pretty flowers to the little  
cupids.*

# APPLICATION FORM

## Personal Information

Name:

Date of birth:

Address:

Tel No:

Email address:

Website (if applicable):

Chosen text for submission:

## Submission

In a separate sealed envelope please include:

1. The completed entry form
2. The first page of music from the score (for identification purposes)
3. The pseudonym used clearly marked on the front of the separate sealed envelope

Please send, along with two printed copies of the complete scores, to:

Owain Park, Trinity College, Cambridge, CB2 1TQ.

Closing date: Friday 15 April 2016 at 5pm

## Declaration

The Gesualdo Six: Composition Competition 2016

I confirm that this work is original and solely my own work and does not infringe upon any third-party copyrights. I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions of this competition.

Signed:

Date: