

Kaleidoscope Call for Scores

FAQ

Q: How many pieces will you select from this year's call for scores?

A: We do not have a set number of pieces we are planning to choose but over half of the music we performed in our 3rd season was by living composers, which included 16 premieres (12 of which were chosen from last year's call for scores). Works chosen from this call will be performed in our 4th season (2017-2018).

Q: My piece has already received world and US premieres with performances in Paris and New York. Can I still apply?

A: Yes, the main requirement is your piece needs to at least be a west coast premiere (California and neighboring states). We feel it's vitally important to perform the great music of living composers as much as possible, which is the most reflective of our time. If people didn't play Mozart's music while he was living, we might not be performing it today.

Q: What size is Kaleidoscope and what music have you performed previously?

A: The size of the ensemble is very flexible depending on programming and we have performed everything from small chamber works to large symphonies like Mahler 4 and Prokofiev 5 with more than 60 musicians. Our first call (in 2015) was only for orchestral works, a year ago we opened it up to chamber works, and this year for the first time we are also considering unaccompanied works! The past programs for our first 3 seasons are listed on our webpage: <http://www.kco.la/concerts/>

Q: Do you have recordings of any of your past performances? If my piece is selected, will it be recorded?

A: Yes, live recordings from most of our past performances are available on our YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjXKRMNcjZt6J1mkadBmtyw>
Performances from next season will also be professionally video/audio recorded.

Q: If my piece is selected, how many rehearsals and performances will my music have?

A: We usually rehearse each piece 7 or more times leading up to two performances in different parts of Los Angeles. We know living composers often get shortchanged with rehearsal time and we are committed to performing all music at the highest level possible. Additionally, it's extremely important for us to be active in underserved parts of our community and our final rehearsal is usually an open rehearsal at a school, hospital, or homeless shelter.

Q: Do you cover travel expenses for composers?

A: Yes, composers of selected pieces will be reimbursed for international travel to and from Los Angeles and be offered 1 week of housing accommodations leading up to performances. We are happy to work with composers of any nationality and age.

Q: How many pieces can I submit?

A: You may submit as many pieces as you like, but there is a separate \$30 application fee for each piece you wish to submit. You also will need to submit a separate online application for each piece you wish to submit. For instance, if you wish to submit an unaccompanied cello piece, two chamber music pieces and one orchestra piece, you would submit \$120. If you only want to submit 1 piece, that's \$30.

Q: How do I pay the application fee?

A: Please use the link on our homepage which allows you to pay the application fee securely via PayPal using a credit card (you do not need a PayPal account). The email address associated with our PayPal account is:

kaleidoscopechamberorchestra@gmail.com

Q: Where does the money go that's raised from application fees?

A: Kaleidoscope is a 501c3 charitable organization and all of the money raised goes into programming costs like paying musicians, renting percussion instruments, venues rentals, insurance, administrative costs, etc. We are still on a shoestring budget and the money raised from previous call for scores has made a huge difference for programming more new music. Often it costs much more to program a new work with lots of percussion or extra winds than a Mozart Symphony, but we are trying to find the best balance we can with our current budget and the music we most want to perform. Most of the money we raised for our 3rd season came from a Kickstarter, which was one of the most successful crowdfunding campaigns in the history of classical music:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/883868848/kaleidoscope-connecting-people-through-classical-m>

Q: I would love to apply, but \$30 is a financial hardship for me. Will you consider waiving the fee?

A: We have intentionally kept the application fee low to not be a hardship, but we understand everyone is in a different position. So, if you have special circumstances that will make paying the fee a hardship, or you reside in a country that will not allow you to use PayPal, please let us know.

Q: Who will be judging the applications?

A: We have a committee made up of about a dozen musicians who perform regularly with Kaleidoscope, with a mix of strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion.

Q: What is your process for deciding which pieces to premiere?

A: Our committee spends hundreds of hours going through applications as thoroughly as possible in multiple rounds. The two biggest considerations are: is this music we would love to perform, and is this music we feel we can perform to its potential.

Q: Are you judging works blindly?

A: In our early rounds, we are reviewing works just by reviewing the score and recording, usually without recognizing the composer. In the final round, we review all the materials the composer has sent openly in as much detail as possible.

Q: Should I remove my name from my score?

A: No, all materials need to be clearly labeled with your name.

Q: Why are you requiring people to submit materials via Google Drive? Wouldn't it be easier for us to just email you our recording and score?

A: We found that we were spending a lot of time downloading and organizing materials and it greatly slowed down our process. Also, some people sent materials with a download link that was expired by the time we got a chance to download. We want to spend as much time as possible getting to know your music and we hope streamlining the process will help with that.

Q: Is everything you perform without conductor? What is your rehearsal process like?

A: Yes. Check out our main FAQ and other pages on our website for more info:

<http://www.kco.la/faq/>

Q: Is there a maximum or minimum size ensemble you're looking for?

A: No. We are happy to consider any unaccompanied works (with or without tape/electronics), chamber music, or orchestra pieces (including concertos and pieces that feature one or more soloists). Works with voice, focusing on one section (like string orchestra), or less traditional instruments or performance practice are also welcome. The main requirement is the work needs to be at least a west coast premiere (if not also a US or world premiere).

Q: My piece has been played in a student reading/concert, do you consider that a premiere?

A: We feel it's up to each composer to decide when the official premiere/s happen and it's a matter of intention more than anything else.

Q: Is there a minimum or maximum length of piece you want to consider?

A: No, there are no strict requirements with length of the piece.

Q: Are you willing to consider concertos and pieces with one or more soloists?

A: Yes, several of the pieces we have premiered in past seasons have been with soloists.

Q: If my music was selected by Kaleidoscope from a prior call for scores, can I submit a different piece to be considered for next season?

A: Yes. In addition to wanting to work with new composers each season, we also look forward to forming ongoing relationships with composers and commissioning works directly in the future.

Q: If I submitted a piece previously that was not selected, can I submit it again?

A: Yes. Although we encourage you to submit your strongest and most recent works each year, our committee also changes year-to-year and it's possible specific pieces will connect differently with different people.

Q: Is there a certain composition style you are looking for?

A: No. The music we have premiered has been very diverse and come from composers of many different countries and backgrounds.

Q: Would you consider a piece that has a required video or multimedia element during the performance?

A: Yes.

Q: I'm a composer who primarily writes for film and I would like to submit a piece that has been recorded but not performed live in concert. Would you consider a live performance by Kaleidoscope to be a premiere?

A: Yes.

Q: After I apply, how and when will I receive confirmation of my application?

A: After you share your score and recording with us via Google Drive, we will send a confirmation email as soon as possible. If you do not receive a confirmation email within a few days of applying, please contact us at: contact@kco.la

Q: I just heard about your call for scores but the deadline passed recently. Can I still apply?

A: We strongly encourage everyone to submit their works before the deadline but if you have issues or need a little more time, please let us know and we may consider slightly late applications on a case-by-case basis.

Q: How and when will chosen works be announced?

A: After all composers are notified via email, we will make our first public announcement via social media in late summer 2017. To follow us on social media, please go to:

www.facebook.com/kaleidoscope.chamber.orchestra/

www.instagram.com/kco_music/

https://twitter.com/kco_music

Q: I have other questions not mentioned here. How do I get in touch?

A: The best way to reach us is via email at:

contact@kco.la