2020–2021 CREATIVE REACTIONS CONTEST: WRITING
Seventh Annual Contest for Princeton University Students

Dedicated to the memory of Vera Sharpe Kohn

ANNOUNCEMENT

Princeton University Concerts (“PUC”) is pleased to announce the 2020–21 Creative Reactions Contest — a contest designed to capture the impact of music, as perceived by Princeton University undergraduate and graduate students. This year’s contest, limited to writing entries only, asks participants to respond to the prompt: What has music meant to you during the pandemic? Entries will be evaluated anonymously by a panel of judges from across the Princeton University campus and town community. Preference will be given to submissions that incorporate a specific musical work as a point of reference.

THE PRIZE

A prize of $1000 will be awarded to the winner of the 2020–21 contest. Honorable Mention(s) of up to $250 may be distributed at the discretion of the jury.

The winning entry(ies) will be announced and publicly distributed on Thursday, April 29, 2021. Princeton University Concerts may incorporate the winning entry(ies) in future print and online materials.

ACCEPTED FORMATS

Reflection on the prompt can take a number of forms—essay, blank verse, prose, poetry, narrative, even lyrics—but participants are encouraged to use a specific musical work as at least one point of reference in the submission and to approach the prompt from a personal perspective. Submissions should be no more than 1000 words and speak to a broad audience. Participants may submit a brief personal statement with their submission, clarifying intention or providing any additional information that may be useful to the jury, such as the title of the referenced musical work(s).

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

The Creative Reactions Contest is open to all currently enrolled (Spring Semester 2021) undergraduate and graduate students. Please note: If you won first prize in a past Creative Reactions Contest, you are ineligible to enter in the same category for one academic year.
SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. REGISTER

All participants must register to participate in the contest. Registrants will receive an email confirmation that will contain a personal ID number to be included with the submission.

REGISTER HERE>

2. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All submissions are due by the end of the day on Friday, April 2, 2021.

Submission guidelines are as follows:

- The Creative Reactions Contest is open to all currently enrolled (Spring Semester 2021) undergraduate and graduate students. (Please note: If you won first prize in a past Creative Reactions Contest, you are ineligible to enter in the same category for one academic year.)
- Participants are welcome to submit as many entries as they like.
- Entries must be submitted electronically as a PDF document and must be no longer than 1,000 words. Preference will be given to submissions that include a specific musical work as a point of reference.
- Submissions must be anonymously identified by the entrant’s Personal ID number in both the submission file title and in the work title. The body of the submission email should contain the writer’s full name, graduation year or graduate student status, netID, personal contest ID number, and telephone number.
- All submissions are due by email to Kerry Heimann, Creative Reactions Contest project manager for Princeton University Concerts, by Friday, April 2, 2021.
- Entrants agree to follow Princeton University’s honor code, detailed in the Academic Integrity Booklet.

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY HERE>

PRIZE Announcement

The $1000 prize and any potential honorable mentions will be announced on Thursday, April 29, 2021. Winners will be notified prior to the announcement.

BACKGROUND

The Creative Reactions Contest is hosted by the Student Ambassadors of PUC, a small group of music-loving students whose mission is to increase student interest and participation in Princeton University Concerts programs. The contest is funded by PUC, which presents an annual professional concert series featuring renowned classical musicians from all over the world. The Creative Reactions Contest seeks to
further PUC’s mission by connecting students to the arts and celebrating classical music’s unique contributions. The Creative Reactions Contest is dedicated to the memory of Vera Sharpe Kohn, a loyal member of the Princeton University Concerts Committee whose support and enthusiasm contributed to the health and well being of Princeton University Concerts.

To view the winning entries from previous contests, click here.

QUESTIONS?

For all questions, please email Creative Reactions Contest project manager Kerry Heimann.