

The British Bandsman.

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THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MUSICIANS' COMPETITION FOR BRITISH COMPOSERS.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

Below we give complete particulars of the great competition for British Composers, announced under the auspices of the Worshipful Company of Musicians. It is a great opportunity for our native composers, and we know that our readers will help in the good work by making it known to all their musical friends. To the fortunate winners it offers a world-wide fame, and it is hoped that, at least, one of the prizes will be won by a British bandsman.

Dr. T. Lea Southgate, one of the Wardens—whose pen has ever been ready to advance the cause of everything that is best in music—has written a special article on the subject of this competition, a copy of which will be forwarded on application to Mr. T. C. Fenwick, 16, Berners Street, London, W. Dr. Southgate's excellent article should be read by all competitors, as it contains many hints of great value.

The following are the officials of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, and particulars of the competition:—

Master.—Sir George Wyatt Truscott.

Wardens.—T. Lea Southgate, Esq., D.C.L., The Rev. R. H. Hadden, M.A.

Committee.—The Worshipful Master, T. Lea Southgate, Esq., D.C.L., Sir Frederick Bridge, M.V.O., M.A., Mus.D., Sir Homewood Crawford, Colonel T. B. Shaw-Hellier, J.P., Clifford B. Edgar, Esq., J.P., Mus.B., B.Sc., Captain A. C. Chamier, F.S.A., Colonel Alexander Finlay, J.P., E. Markham Lee, Esq., M.A., Mus.D., W. H. Cummings, Esq., Mus.D., F.S.A., C. H. Allen Gill, F.R.A.M.

Assistants in Judging.—Lieut.-Colonel A. G. Balfour, Captain Beaumont (late Royal Welsh Fusiliers), Captain A. J. Stretton, M.V.O. (Director of the Music, Royal Military School of Music), Lieutenant Albert Williams, M.V.O., Mus.D. (Bandmaster, H.M. Grenadier Guards), Dan Godfrey, Esq., Hon.R.A.M. (Examiner in Bandmastership L.R.A.M.).

First prize, fifty guineas, presented anonymously. Second prize, twenty guineas, presented by Captain Beaumont. Third prize, fifteen guineas, presented by members of the company. Fourth prize, ten guineas, presented by C. T. D. Crews, Esq. Fifth prize, ten pounds, presented by J. Henry Iles, Esq.

SUBJECTS OF THE COMPETITION.

The composition of a piece especially designed for performance by a full military band.

No limitation is placed on the form which the pieces sent in for competition should take. They can be in that of:—

(1) A Concert Overture.

(2) Grand March.

(3) Phantasie in one movement which may include diversities of tempo, rhythms, and key.

(4) Suite.

If the last be chosen, it will be advisable to confine it to three short movements, each playable as a detached piece when desired. In this case it is suggested that the opening movement should be cast in free Sonata form, or be a fanciful Prelude; the second could be a Romance, a Minuet or Trio, Intermezzo, or of a lyrical character; the last movement might be a brief March, or an extended treatment of one of the old Dance forms.

The committee set down these suggestions for the consideration of composers, but it is to be understood that no restrictions are imposed on the form of the music entered for the competition. The prizes will be awarded to the pieces deemed the most effective, irrespective of the type of composition.

REGULATIONS.

The works are to be secured for the usual complement of instruments found in a regimental band; these are:—D flat flute and piccolo; 1st and 2nd E flat clarinets; 2 oboes; solo B flat clarinet; 1st B flat clarinets, rip.; 2nd B flat clarinets; 3rd B flat clarinets; E flat alto clarinet or saxophone; B flat tenor saxophone; 1st bassoon; 2nd bassoon; 1st B flat cornets, *solo* and rip.; 2nd B flat cornets; 2 E flat trumpets; 2 B flat trumpets; 1st and 2nd E flat or F horns; 3rd and 4th E flat or F horns; B flat baritone (althorn); 1st trombone; 2nd trombone; bass trombone; B flat euphonium (bass clef); E flat bombardon; B flat bombardon; 2 tympani and triangle *ad lib.*; side drums, bass drum, and cymbals. [String double bass, and B flat bass clarinet may be added *ad lib.*]

In setting out and filling in the score, composers should bear in mind that if the pieces are subsequently made available for small brass and reed bands, certain instruments and doubled passages will then have to be omitted. Solo passages in 2nd E flat clarinet, oboes, 2nd bassoon, the saxophones, trumpets, 3rd and 4th horns, baritone, and 2nd trombone should be "cued," so that the work can be more readily adapted for smaller bands. It is desired that the parts be written with extreme legibility, and that the key signatures and the abbreviated name of the instruments be inserted at the beginning of each line. At the bottom of the pages there should be a reduction of the parts as for the pianoforte, two or four hands. No separate parts for the instruments

need be sent in until these are asked to be supplied for a performance.

Overtures, Marches, and Phantasies should not occupy more than eight minutes in performance; Suites not to exceed twelve minutes.

The pieces must not have been already printed or played in public.

The competition is open only to British subjects.

The manuscripts are to be delivered to T. C. Fenwick, Esq., Clerk to the Company, at 16, Berners Street, London, W., before March 31st, 1909. The score must be furnished with a motto, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope bearing the same motto, and enclosing the name and address of the composer. Only the names of the successful competitors will be published. The compositions of other competitors, if requested, will be returned by the Clerk. No awards will be made merely for comparative merit, the committee reserving the right to withhold any prize if so advised by the judges. The Musicians' Company is to be at liberty—if its Court thinks fit—to publish the scores and parts of the pieces to which prizes are awarded. The copyrights of these shall be assigned to the Musicians' Company.

Passing Notes.

NEWCASTLE ROYAL ARTILLERY BAND.

As we hear that our remarks in our issue of the 10th October last, under "Australian Jottings," anent the recent tour in Australia of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Royal Artillery Band, have caused amongst certain members and friends of the band a feeling that they are aggrieved by our comments, we hasten to say at once that such comments were made in quite a friendly spirit and we never had the slightest intention of casting any aspersion whatever upon the band or any of its members, towards whom we have the greatest goodwill and whom we wish every success.

THE 1909 TESTPIECES.

Fast approaching is the time when our thoughts will turn towards next season's contests. Get the testpieces ready now. Next year the chief and most popular testpieces will be "Old Favourites," "Zampa," "Rienzi" and "Gems of Mozart." The first named will be the piece of 1909. As the above music, together with other popular pieces is published in the 1909 "C.J.," those bands who have not yet subscribed should do so immediately, and thus obtain the pieces, along with others suitable for all occasions, at the journal rate. "Old Memories" will also be used extensively again next season. We predicted this selection would be the most popular in 1908, and it easily led the way. For 1909—"Old Favourites."