



Markku Johansson competition in composition and arrangement

Vantaa Pops Orchestra organizes the first competition in composition and arrangement bearing the name of Markku Johansson in 2018. The competition is part of the 70th anniversary events of the Vantaa Pops Orchestra. The objective of the competition is to find new music for the entertainment orchestra and pay attention to the significant influence on Finnish light music that Markku Johansson, long-term conductor of the Vantaa Pops Orchestra, has had.

There are two series in the competition, composition and arrangement. None of the pieces must be previously published. In the composition competition one can participate with an instrumental composition, and in the arrangement competition with a free-choice arrangement for orchestra and vocal soloist. The songs must be prepared for the large lineup of the Vantaa Pops Orchestra.

In its evaluation the jury will emphasize the following criteria:

- The composer's view of entertainment music in the 2020's
- High-grade instrumentation
- A natural writing method for each instrument

The arrangement is hoped to respect the original mood and character of the piece.

Competition rules:

1. All musicians and interested parties may participate in the competition without any geographical limit or age restriction, with the exception of the competition organizers and the jury.
2. The piece should be previously unpublished and unperformed.
3. The piece should be between 3 and 6 minutes long.
4. The competition has two categories:

Composition Contest: An instrumental composition for Vantaa Pops Orchestra.

Arrangement competition: A vocal arrangement of any piece either for a male or female soloist and Vantaa Pops Orchestra. The male soloist's register should be baritone, the female's alto.

5. Each contestant can participate with one piece in each category.
6. Instrumentation of Vantaa Pops Orchestra:

2 flutes (second player can double on piccolo or alto flute), 2 oboes (second player can double on english horn), 2 clarinets (second player can double on bass clarinet), 2 bassoons (second player can double on contrabassoon), 4 French horns, 3 trumpets (in Bb), 3 trombones, 1 tuba, timpani, 2 percussion players, 1 harp, 1st violins, 2nd violins, violas, cellos, double basses, electric guitar, piano/keyboards, electric bass, drum set

7. Material to be submitted:

Score and parts should contain the score and all the necessary parts. The material should be sent in electronic form as pdf files with the composer's/arranger's pseudonym. The participant's identity may not appear in the contest piece's notes. We recommend that the participants familiarize themselves with, for example, these instructions for the finishing of the materials:

<http://mola-inc.org/article/Music-Preparation-Guidelines-for-Orchestral-Music.pdf>

A link to the demo version of the piece in mp3 format. For example, files received from music scoring programs are suitable for this purpose. Attach a link to your piece in the e-mail message, from where the linked file can be downloaded. Do not attach an mp3 file as an attachment to the message.

Competition participant's contact details: name, address, phone number and e-mail address.

All material must be sent in **one e-mail message** to the address: kilpailu@viihdeorkesteri.fi

The material for the competition should be available no later than 15 June 2018 at 16.00.

8. Vantaa Pops Orchestra has the exclusive right to perform the song's competition version for two (2) years from the final concert. All copyrights to the work remain with the rightsholders of the work. The pieces will remain in the collections of Vantaa Pops Orchestra. Vantaa Pops Orchestra reserves the right to record an audio and video recording of the competition songs, photograph or film the final concert for television, or otherwise record the songs. If a contestant's piece is published later, the right to use the note material in future concerts remains with Vantaa Pops Orchestra without any extra compensation.
9. The pieces selected by the preliminary jury are performed at the final concert on 17 September 2018 at Cultural House Martinus, and the competition jury then selects the pieces that receive an award. The combined prize money for the whole competition is 18,000 euros. The competition jury decides on the distribution of the prize money.
10. The members of the competition jury are Hans Ek (Sweden), Markku Johansson, Jaakko Kuusisto and Antti Rissanen; Jussi Lampela is secretary for the competition. The conductor of the concert is Nick Davies.
11. The contestants whose pieces have been chosen for the final concert will be informed by 17 August 2018.

For more information:

Secretary of competition

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