



EMERGING COMPOSERS' COMPETITION WINNERS

1st Prize – US\$750: *Tales from the Aviary* by Jordan Jinosko

Cash prize and performance of the work during the 2025/2026 season by the Symphony Orchestra, top orchestra at GSYO, including professional audio recording of the concert performance.

2nd Prize – US\$500: *California Contrasts* by Jacob Harrison

Cash prize and performance of the work during the 2026/2027 season by the Symphony Orchestra, top orchestra at GSYO, including professional audio recording of the concert performance.

3rd Prize – US\$250: *Ten Remarks on a City* by Aaron Israel Levin

Cash prize only

Winners will be contacted shortly after the announcement for performance details and prize money transfer.

Jury Comments:

Valeria Pelka: *"It was a true honor to serve as a jury member for the GSYO's Emerging Composers' Competition. I was genuinely impressed by the high number of submissions and the impressive artistic quality of the works, which made the selection process truly challenging, as many compositions displayed great talent and creativity. Some pieces, while very creative, presented technical demands that may be difficult for a youth orchestra, so we encourage composers to keep this in mind. I warmly congratulate all participants and encourage them to continue developing their skills in all areas of composition—harmony, counterpoint, orchestration, form, and beyond. Keep creating and growing in your musical journey! Warm regards."*

Jeffery Meyer: *"It is always deeply inspiring to serve on the jury for a composition competition like this one. As I've come to expect in today's vibrant artistic landscape, the submissions reflected strong craft, inventive thinking, and a wide diversity of styles and aesthetic perspectives. Even among such quality, these three works clearly rose to the top for us as a jury. I extend my warmest congratulations not only to the selected composers,*

but also to Maestro Yun Song Tay and the Golden State Youth Orchestra for their commitment to advancing new music for orchestra. The GSYO musicians are in for a rich and rewarding musical journey."

Yun Song Tay: *"We extend our sincere congratulations to all applicants for the dedication and creativity demonstrated in submitting their entries. We were pleasantly surprised by the number of submissions received—far exceeding our expectations—and were deeply impressed by the overall quality. Many of the works submitted were of exceptional merit and fully deserving of performance. However, due to the nature of the competition, we were limited to selecting only three pieces from this outstanding pool. Each submission displayed its own distinctive voice and artistic merit. The selected works, however, distinguished themselves through their compelling orchestration, originality of concept, refinement of craftsmanship, and their suitability for performance by a youth orchestra."*

The past few months of reviewing entries have served as a powerful reminder of the importance of fostering such opportunities for emerging composers. There is a wealth of remarkable music waiting to be discovered, and it is our firm belief that initiatives like this competition play a crucial role in shaping the future of classical music. We are therefore pleased to announce that we plan to hold a second edition of the competition in two years' time. We look forward to sharing further details in due course and encourage all interested composers to stay informed."