

**„Eine Stimme steht im Dunkel...“**  
**Composition competition 2022**

The Department for Equality and Diversity of the hmdw - Students' Union of the mdw - University of Music and performing Arts Vienna announces a Lied - composition competition for the year 2022.

The competition is named after the title of the poem "Die Stimme im Dunkel" by Elisabeth Meinhard. The competition aims to give a voice to partly unknown female poets from 20th century and to create a new chamber music repertoire for singing voice(s) and piano.

**Competition regulations**

1. The composition competition **“Eine Stimme steht im Dunkel...”** is an international competition and is aimed at composers of all ages, genders and nationalities.
2. The competition is conducted anonymously. In order to be able to guarantee anonymity, all submissions have to be sent only to the following email: [ggd@mdw.ac.at](mailto:ggd@mdw.ac.at). Only one composition may be submitted per applicant.
3. The application period ends on February **20th, 2023**, 11:59 p.m. (CET).
4. A composition for voice(s) (solo to quartet) and piano with a playing time of 3 - 10 minutes is to be submitted. The work must be transposable into all voice registers, but only one voice register is required for submission. The selected composers undertake to provide the transpositions for high, middle and low voice in due time and free of charge until April 15th, 2023.

An explicit indication of the preferred voice range(s) (soprano, mezzo-soprano, alto, countertenor, tenor, baritone, bass-baritone, bass) or the preferred voice subject - in case of an award - is desired, but not obligatory.

There are a total of 5 poems to choose from for setting - fragments or excerpts of these poems may also be used. (list attached)

5. A jury consisting of composers, lecturers of the University of Music and performing Arts Vienna and representatives of the Department for Equality and Diversity will select three compositions from the submissions for the award. The premiere will take place at the mdw in June 2023.
6. The jury's decision will be announced on the website of the Department for Equality and Diversity (<https://www.hmdw.ac.at/index.php/uv-referate/referat-fuer-gleichstellung-und-diversity>) in March 2023 . Selected applicants will be informed by email.
7. The following should be submitted:

- a new work that was neither premiered nor published by the date of the performance (neither whole nor partially). New instrumentation of already existing works will not be accepted.
  - Work commentary (between 2 000 and 6 000 characters)
  - fully formulated CV (max. 1000 characters) including a photo and its copyright information (Name of photographer and year) has to be enclosed within the submission.
  - enclosed documents have to be written in either German or English.
  - submitted documents must not be labeled with the name of the composer or otherwise reveal their identity.
  - Only a four-digit number code may be used to identify submitted documents. The number has to be self selected and stated on all documents (The names will be announced during the concert.)
8. Three prizes totalling **EUR 3000** will be awarded. The concrete distribution of the prize money is at the discretion of the jury. The jury reserves the right not to award prizes or to split prizes. All selected composers will also receive a copy of the live recording as well as an award certificate.
  9. It is not legally possible to challenge the jury's decisions.
  10. By registering, all applicants grant the *hmdw* the right to post personal information and to pass it on to third parties.
  11. The *hmdw* also reserves the right to documentation and is entitled to acoustically and visually document all concerts or events of the competition and to use this documentation to publicize the competition. These visual and / or audio recordings may be used free of charge for reporting in all media and, for this purpose, may be reproduced, distributed, performed, broadcast and / or made publicly available.
  12. The copyright remains with the composers.
  13. The composers have to pay for the travel or accommodation costs themselves.
  14. By participating in the competition, the composer undertakes to accept and meet all competition conditions.
  15. The judges' decision is final in all matters relating to the competition.

Vienna, June 30th, 2022

Elsabeth Meinhard

**Die Stimme aus dem Dunkel**

*In roten Schuhen tanzt die Sonne sich zu Tod am Rand der Nacht.  
Die roten Schuhe sind aus meinen gestorbenen Träumen gemacht.  
Blaugelbe Tore brechen auf in den dämmerigen Räumen.  
Mir ist, als müßt' ich im All meine sehrende Seele verschäumen.  
Nur der hat zu leben gewagt, der keine Grenze in sich hat,  
Und der gleich selig wohnt in Mensch und Tier und Blatt.*

*Eine Stimme steht im Dunkel wie ein verschleiertes Licht.  
An ihren blauen Knien liegt der Blütenbäume Gesicht.*

Sylvia von Harden

**Die erste Freude**

*Schenkel platzen aufgepeitscht  
Durch Nächte.  
In sich zusammen.  
Sie liegen  
Wollust in Wollust  
Und leuchten  
Mit nie erwachten Augen.*

*Musikflüstert.  
Sie jauchzen an Körpern entlang  
Streicheln in Geilheit  
Tanz.  
Heben sich blühend  
Vorbei*

Nell Walden

**Frage**

Was bin ich?  
Ein kosmischer Strahl  
Aus fernen Welten.  
Sterngefunkel,  
Sonnenglanz,  
Mondschein  
Schufen mich  
Auf dieser Erde,  
Wo fremd ich wandle,  
Wo fern ich bin  
Dem blauen Licht der Sterne,  
Dem warmen Glanz der Sonne,  
Dem silbrig Mondschein  
Weiß und keusch  
Voll Sehnsucht nach  
Dem Jenseits  
Überirdisch schön und licht...

Else Lasker-Schüler

**Weltende**

Es ist ein Weinen in der Welt,  
Als ob der liebe Gott gestorben wär,  
Und der bleierne Schatten, der niederfällt,  
Lastet grabesschwer.

Komm, wir wollen uns näher verbergen ...  
Das Leben liegt in aller Herzen  
Wie in Särgen.

Du! Wir wollen uns küssen –  
Es pocht eine Sehnsucht an die Welt,  
An der wir sterben müssen.

Bess Brenck-Kalischer

**Im Urgrund wuchsen wir...**

*Im Urgrund wuchsen wir.*  
*Blaue Blüten*  
*Immer nur Du.*  
*Verschlungen, verweht*  
*Rankt unser Blut an fremden Hüften empor.*  
*Wildes Gesproß.*  
*O*  
*Nur im Traum*  
*Rühren wir uns noch*  
*Du und Du.*