



**News Release | June 20, 2018**

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## The Florida Orchestra announces guidelines for 2018-19 Student Composition Competition

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – Next season, The Florida Orchestra will open its Student Composition Competition to all Florida universities and colleges with a music composition department, encompassing about a dozen schools, the orchestra said in announcing new guidelines for the 2018-19 season.

Music Director Michael Francis and a panel of TFO staff and musicians will choose the winning work, which the orchestra will premiere on the final TFO Masterworks series concerts May 24-26, 2019. The winner also will receive a \$1,000 honorarium.

The competition underscores TFO's commitment to education and to music as a living art form, focusing on Florida talent. "We're showing that as the third biggest state, we have an incredible artistic voice," Maestro Francis said. This year's winner, *Shattered Clock Fanfare* by David Browne of Florida Atlantic University, was featured on the Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony concert on May 18-20 in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater.

The first round of the selection process will be blind, and the committee will have no knowledge of the composers or their schools. Up to four finalists will be chosen for a "reading session," in which The Florida Orchestra will play through each finalist's work, on March 19, 2019.

General guidelines include:

- Each university or college may submit up to two works for TFO's consideration. The orchestra suggests each school hold an internal competition, but it's up to the school.
- The competition is open to any composition major, regardless of specific discipline (i.e. classical or jazz), or degree program (i.e. bachelors or masters).
- The work should be between three and six minutes in length.

Important dates include:

- **December 21, 2018:** Deadline for schools to submit complete student score(s) and accompanying recording, resume and artist statement for consideration
- **January 11, 2019:** Finalists announced

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- **March 19, 2019:** Florida Orchestra reading session of finalists' works at University of South Florida School of Music
- **March 22, 2019:** Winning composer/composition announced

Complete competition details are available on The Florida Orchestra [website](#).

Click [here for a TFO Blog post](#) on this year's winner, David Browne.

For more Florida Orchestra news and features, [click here for the TFO Blog](#).

**[About The Florida Orchestra](#)**

*Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the 2017/18 season, The Florida Orchestra is recognized as Tampa Bay's leading performing arts institution, the largest professional symphony orchestra in Florida, and one of the most vibrant and innovative orchestras in America. Under the leadership of Music Director Michael Francis, it performs more than 130 concerts a season, with series of classical, popular, and morning coffee concerts in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, as well as free Pops in the Park concerts. Dedicated to bringing music to all people, connecting to the community is a priority, with pre-concert talks, family and youth concerts and other educational activities. Kids and teens get in free to classical Masterworks concerts with Classical Kids tickets. To subscribe or buy tickets: 727.892.3337 or 1.800.662.7286; floridaorchestra.org.*