

St Endellion Easter Festival Composition Competition 2026

Entries are now open for the 2026 St Endellion Easter Festival Composition Competition.

Closing Date: 8pm GMT on 1st December 2025

The winner will be awarded £1500 upon delivery of a commission of a work to be performed at the St Endellion Easter Festival, held in Cornwall from 4th –12th April 2026.

We welcome submissions from individuals from a wide range of circumstances and recognise there is no one path to becoming a composer. To enter, you are asked to submit a small portfolio of existing work, along with an artistic proposal and motivational statement (written or by video). Details below.

The Festival:

The 53rd St Endellion Easter Festival will be held in the Collegiate Church of St Endellion, North Cornwall. This residential festival brings together instrumentalists and singers to rehearse and perform a range of concerts over a 9-day period encompassing oratorio, orchestral and choral concerts, chamber performances and two sung church services.

<https://endellionfestivals.littleboxoffice.com/home>

The Award:

The selected award winner will receive a £1500 Prize upon delivery of a new composition written for the St Endellion Easter Festival 2026. The final composition must meet the following requirements:

- o Duration: between 3 and 6 mins.
- o Instrumentation: max 5 performers, including at least one vocal part and one instrumental part. The full Festival forces from which to choose are: 2322-2300-perc-strings-cnt/org/pno, SATB voices.
- o The composition must be entirely acoustic.
- o Consider that the musicians will have limited rehearsal time during the course of the Festival.

For queries regarding instrumentation, please contact us in advance of submitting an application.

Please choose a text on a theme appropriate for an Eastertide festival, (e.g. spring or renewal) and out of copyright. It can be either sacred or secular.

The following are simply examples that would be suitable:

- o <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/42889/hope-is-the-thing-with-feathers-314>
- o <https://poemanalysis.com/william-blake/spring/>
- o <https://www.stjohnsshirley.org.uk/2020/04/04/i-watched-a-blackbird-by-thomas-hardy/>

The £1500 Prize includes: research, writing, delivery and any necessary revisions of the new composition; attendance at the Festival including at a possible Friends Event and open workshop; perpetual performance rights for the St Endellion Festivals. Travel expenses, accommodation and meals whilst in residence will be provided to the award winner in addition to the £1500 prize.

The Festival requires a finalised score and parts (electronic copy acceptable) to be delivered on or before 9th March 2026. The composition will be premiered in one of the concerts as part of the Festival.

The Application Process:

Eligibility:

Entrants must be over 18, must have the right to live and work in the UK, and have a UK bank account. We hope entrants are available to attend the Festival (4th–12th April 2026) for at least part of the week. Travel, accommodation and meals whilst in residence will be provided. Should you be unable to attend but still wish to apply, please contact us in advance. Previous winners of this competition may not apply.

Entry Requirements:

- o Artistic Proposal (see guidance below)
- o Chosen text
- o Portfolio: min 2, max 3 composition scores for consideration (PDFs)
- o Web link to recording of compositions (optional)
- o Current CV
- o Motivational Statement
- o Completed entry form

Both the Artistic Proposal and the Motivational Statement may be submitted as links to freely accessible recorded video (e.g. YouTube link).

Artistic Proposal:

Significant weight will be given to the Artistic Proposal. In no more than 350 words (or 3 mins of video), please set out the artistic considerations behind the piece you intend to write. You should take into consideration the Commission requirements (above), explain your reasoning for your choice of text and expand upon any early ideas you might have for the composition.

How to enter:

Please submit your entry no later than 20:00 GMT on 1st December 2025, using the Google Forms below:

<https://forms.gle/1vNdp9gFafrPVRtG6>

Selection Process:

Choosing a winner will be a two-part process. In the first round, only the Artistic Proposal and Portfolio will be considered. Applications will be anonymised as much as possible before being assessed by a panel who will determine a shortlist for the second round.

For the second round, a larger panel will determine the successful candidate from the short list. The panel may consider the motivational statement and CV of entrants in addition to the Artistic Proposal and Portfolio. No additional submission is required for the second round and applicants will not be contacted between rounds of assessment.

The Results:

We will announce a winner by 5th January 2026.

The successful composer will have 9 weeks to complete their work.

The panel's decision will be final and the Festival reserves the right not to determine an award-winner. Although we cannot commit to providing feedback, we will endeavour to do so if requested.

Enquiries:

Should you have any queries, please contact Merryl Webster, Trustee of St Endellion Festivals Trust, at eastercommission@endellionfestivals.org.uk