

# VOX 2009

Showcasing American Composers

## APPLICATION

New York City Opera calls for applications for its contemporary opera series **VOX 2009: Showcasing American Composers**. VOX 2009 will give composers of US citizenship the opportunity to present to the public excerpts of operatic works, un-staged, as read by the New York City Opera orchestra and soloists. Works which have yet to receive a United States premiere (excluding school or conservatory settings) are eligible to apply. Completed works and works-in-progress will be equally considered, provided an excerpt of at least 20 minutes in length accompanies this application.

**Postmark deadline is Monday, September 1.**

**Please complete this form with the following materials:**

### Score materials:

- Piano/vocal score representing the strongest 20-30 minutes of your piece (4 copies)
- Orchestral score of the same 20-30 minutes (4 copies), or, if the piece being submitted is not yet orchestrated, an orchestral score from another piece to demonstrate orchestration skill (4 copies)
- Piano/vocal score of the full piece, or as much as is currently written (1 copy)
- Orchestral score of the full piece, or as much as is currently written (1 copy)

### Synopsis or treatment of your work:

- Summary of the work as a whole (4 copies)
- Detailed summary of the 20-30 minutes selected (4 copies)

**Biography/CV** of the composer and the librettist (4 copies)

**Recording of submitted material:** live recording, midi-demo, or composer play-through of the 20-30 minutes selected (4 copies)

**Data CD** with synopses of the work as a whole, detailed synopsis of the selection, headshots of composer and librettist, and libretto of submitted section (1 CD)

**Self-addressed stamped envelope** if return of material is requested. Do not send postage only; return packaging must also be included. Please note that submitted scores will not be kept on file or in archives at City Opera, and materials that are not accompanied by a return envelope will be destroyed shortly after notification of the judges' decision. If you do not need your materials returned to you, please indicate this on your application form.

## The Selection Process

All entries will be reviewed carefully by a panel comprised of opera professionals and members of City Opera's artistic and production staff. All members of the jury make recommendations based on the following criteria:

- The work defines itself as an opera with music and words serving a theatrical purpose. Score and libretto are stage-worthy and crafted with dramatic savvy.
- Submitted material shows technical skill in composition for vocal writing and instrumental ensemble.
- The creators have a unique voice with the potential to enrich the operatic literature.
- The topic and subject matter of the opera are exceptional, relevant, and well suited to a music-theater form.
- The composer/librettist team will benefit from hearing their work with a full orchestra and soloists.
- The material is performable based on the resources available to the project.
- The work contributes to a wider diversity of styles and perspectives sought out for the festival as a whole.

All entries will also have to meet the following eligibility:

- The competition is open only to composers who are US citizens or composers currently living in America with plans to stay in the country on a long-term basis (proof required).
- The work may not have had a professional stage premiere; if a stage premiere is anticipated, it must be scheduled for after the VOX workshop dates.
- Works of all ensemble sizes will be considered but should not exceed the size of the New York City Opera orchestra (listed below). Instrumental requirements beyond the forces stated above may be considered but not guaranteed.
- Traditional and non-traditional operatic forms and musical styles are welcome.

## City Opera Orchestra

The **maximum** ensemble size usually available for VOX is:

Strings: 10/8/6/5/4

Woodwinds: 3/3/3/3

Brass: 4/3/3/1

Timpani, 2 Percussion, Harp, Piano, Celesta

These numbers are intended as guidance in considering a work's feasibility for VOX; this is not a guarantee of what will be available for this year's festival. Additional instruments required for specific excerpts will be considered but not guaranteed.

**Upon Acceptance**

Accepted works will be presented subject to the following conditions:

Composers must generate a cast list and orchestration list, 10 piano/vocal scores, three full orchestral/conductor scores, and orchestral parts which correspond to the selected excerpt in the proper number, paper size and format by the deadlines published at the time of acceptance.

**Composers, and not New York City Opera, are solely responsible for the copying and the correctness of all score materials.** Composers must provide a study CD or cassette recording of the selected excerpt for soloists and music staff, and must release New York City Opera from liability related to any recordings of the rehearsals or reading of their work. New York City Opera reserves the right to alter casting and orchestration where deemed necessary by the music and/or administrative staff by reason of personnel or other constraints. In the event of future presentations or productions of the selected work, a credit citing the participation of New York City Opera and VOX in the development of the work must be included in publicity and program materials. City Opera encourages nationwide submissions, but travel is the responsibility of the creators.

**Please fill out and return with a completed application:**

Title of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Status of Work (circle one): COMPLETE      WORK-IN-PROGRESS

**COMPOSER'S CONTACT:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact? Y / N

(If no, please include title and address to the right)

**LIBRETTIST'S CONTACT:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and understood the policies outlined above regarding submission policies and acceptance.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of primary contact and date*

Applications that do not arrive complete will not be considered.

**Send completed applications to:**

Yuval Sharon  
VOX Project Director  
New York City Opera  
20 Lincoln Center Plaza  
New York, NY 10023

**Address questions to:** [vox@nycopera.com](mailto:vox@nycopera.com)