



**Fifth House Ensemble
1st Annual Young Composer Competition
Application Form**

Postmark Deadline: May 1, 2008

Requirements: Submissions must be under 10 minutes long, and can be written for a minimum of four players from the Fifth House roster (string quartet, wind quintet, bass, piano). Auxiliary instruments such as piccolo, alto flute, English horn, E-flat and bass clarinet are also available. The piece may have been previously performed but must not be published. Special consideration will be given to pieces with mixed wind and string instrumentation. Please submit a full score **and** a set of parts for your piece by mail or email in PDF format. Please note that materials will not be returned unless you include a self-addressed envelope with full postage. In addition to your score and parts, please submit a brief paragraph linking your work to our 2008-2009 season theme, Commedia dell'Arte. Winners will be notified by e-mail on or before June 15, 2008.

Application Fee: \$40 payable by check to Fifth House Ensemble and mailed with your application.

Age Requirement: Applicants must be born on or after June 1, 1978. Please include a copy of your driver's license or passport for age verification.

Submissions can be mailed to: **Fifth House Ensemble
Melissa Snoza, Executive Director
4361 Bunker Hill Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102
melissa@fifth-house.com**

Or e-mailed in PDF format to: **melissa@fifth-house.com**

Name *Date of Birth*

School/Organization

Address *Street* *City* *Zip*

Phone *Email*

Name of Composition: _____

Instrumentation: _____

Approximate Duration: _____

Application Checklist:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Application Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Score |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Application Fee - \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Parts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph Description | <input type="checkbox"/> Proof of Age |

MELISSA SNOZA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
4361 BUNKER HILL DRIVE ALGONQUIN IL 60102
224-715-6455
INFO@FIFTH-HOUSE.COM
WWW.FIFTH-HOUSE.COM



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Prize: The grand prize winner will have his/her piece programmed and performed on our 2008-2009 subscription series in downtown Chicago, and will receive a professional recording of the live performance. A special prize will be awarded to an outstanding local applicant (from IL, WI, or IN), and his/her piece will be programmed and performed on a non-series Fifth House concert in the Chicago area.

About the ensemble: The Chicago-based Fifth House Ensemble is a versatile and dynamic group whose performances have been praised by critics as “a little slice of nobility” and “simply fun to hear.” Fifth House’s innovative programs engage audiences through their connective programming and unexpected performance venues. Fifth House’s mission is to tap the collaborative spirit of chamber music to create engaging performances and interactive educational programs, forging meaningful partnerships with non-traditional venues, artists of other disciplines, educational institutions, and audiences of every type. Recent projects include Fifth House’s inaugural subscription series, *The Four Elements*, collaborative performances at the Shedd Aquarium, educational concerts through the International Music Foundation, a series at Danny’s Tavern and residencies at colleges throughout the Midwest.

Connective Programming: To create its annual subscription series concerts, Fifth House uses its signature connective programming process to tie together established works with those of emerging composers by exploring a central idea or theme. Pieces are chosen either due to a direct programmatic link, or because they exhibit sound characteristics that suggest a connection to the main theme.

For the 2008-2009 season, concerts will be designed utilizing the archetypes of Commedia dell’Arte, an Italian tradition with derivatives ranging from classic theatre to modern-day sitcoms. The winning composition should somehow support or connect to that concept, be it through the idea of low vs. high art, the stock characters created through the art form (such as Harlequin, Pantalone, etc.) and their modern-day counterparts, or a more general sense of theatre. A direct programmatic reference to Commedia dell’Arte is not necessary; more abstract connections are open for consideration.

Commedia dell’Arte Resources: La Commedia dell’Arte literally means “Artistic Comedy,” probably named as a contraposition to the standard way of making theater in that period. It has been renamed in English as “Italian Comedy” probably due to the fact it originates and had its high points in Italy. The Commedia dell’Arte had its start in the second half of the 16th century, in a period when plays were classic, stylish, cold and rigorous. In direct contrast, commedia performances were loud, colorful representations and blossomed everywhere in Italy, subverting the classic theatre. The powerful mix of various elements gave strong impulse to the initiative: popular themes, complex stories with lots of climax, acrobatic jumps and mellow love scenes made it a success. (from www.delpiano.com)

Useful Links:

<http://www.delpiano.com/carnival/html/commedia.html>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commedia_dell'arte#The_Characters
<http://web.archive.org/web/20030509105915/http://www.mcauley.acu.edu.au/staff/delyse/commedia.html#Scapino>
<http://www.shane-arts.com/commedia-stock-characters.htm>

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