

Young People's Fourth Jewish Song-Writing Contest Guidelines – 2011

Sharim v'Sharot Foundation is hosting: The Fourth Sharim v'Sharot Young People's Jewish Song-Writing Contest

Through the Fourth Young People's Jewish Song-Writing contest, Sharim v'Sharot Foundation is offering an opportunity for young people to express their thoughts and feelings about Jewish life. Music reaches beyond boundaries and connects generations, one to another. With the creation of songs, applicants will share their talents with the Jewish community and demonstrate that Jewish music can always be an important part of one's identity.

What is the Sharim v'Sharot Foundation?

The Sharim v'Sharot Foundation (from Ecclesiastes 2:8, Hebrew for "People of Song"), is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in the State of New Jersey that sponsors a four-part a cappella choir. Our mission is to perform the music of the Jewish people at the highest possible level, so that our love of Jewish music is conveyed to our audiences. We also aim to educate the public about the Jewish people, so they may appreciate the passion and value within the rich tapestry of Jewish experience. We serve the entire Jewish community, spanning Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist institutions. Sponsored by Rider University's Hillel and funded partly by the United Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks, Sharim v'Sharot is an independent choir. We meet in Lawrenceville, New Jersey throughout the year. Our members are students and professionals of all ages, living throughout central New Jersey and the Greater Delaware Valley.

Who is eligible to enter?

Jewish children, ages 8-18, residing or attending school in Mercer County, New Jersey, or Bucks County, Pennsylvania are eligible. For purposes of this contest, we use the definition of "Jewish" as it appears in the in Birthright Israel Program:

Eligible individuals are those recognized as Jewish by the Jewish community or by one of the recognized denominations of Judaism; or if either parent is Jewish and the applicant does not actively practice another religion.

How is a Jewish song defined?

A Jewish song is a song in English, Hebrew, Yiddish, or Ladino, that contains one or more of the following properties of text and music:

- A. Lyrics are taken from *Tanakh* (Torah, Prophets, the Writings), the *Siddur* (Prayer Book), the *Machzor* (High-Holiday Prayerbook), other Jewish liturgical texts, and texts of Jewish poets or other written materials if written about events, people, places, customs, observances, or issues of importance to the Jewish people.
- B. For this year's contest, songs may be sung in Hebrew or English. If using the Hebrew, songs that are notated should use transliteration. (Musical notation, like Romanized text, moves from left to right. Hebrew text, however moves from right to left. Therefore Hebrew songs are almost always written as transliteration.)
- C. Melody contains pitch and rhythm and can be repeated by other performers. Sorry, no rap songs accepted.
- D. The musical work has at least a beginning, a contrasted section, and an ending section.

Who chooses the lyrics of the song?

This year, Sharim v'Sharot has selected song lyrics. All applicants are to choose either one Paragraph Text, or two or more Single-Sentence Texts. The applicant may choose.

This year's theme is: Jewish Environmentalism. Applicants are to choose lyrics from the list posted in this website, under Song Contest Lyrics, 2010-2011

How do applicants enter the contest?

A. Go to www.SharimvSharot.org, between December 15, 2010 and February 22, 2011 and download the Jewish Youth Song-Writing Application Form. Enter according to age group. Only one entry per applicant is allowed.

1. K'tanim 8-11 years old on the date of submission of entry
2. Garinim 12-15 years old on the date of submission of entry.
3. Bogrim 16-18 years old on the date of submission of entry.

B. Mail all materials to:

Sharim v'Sharot

P.O. Box 5102

Trenton, NJ 08638

What should be submitted?

Complete either A or B. Applicants may also submit both A and B.

- A. Entrants are encouraged, but not required to submit an original musical score for at least one singer with notated lyrics and melody. Put the song title on the score. Chords are appreciated but not required. Piano accompaniment or other instruments or vocals are appreciated but not required. **DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE SCORE**
- B. Entrants are encouraged but not required to submit a recorded performance on CD. Put the song title on the CD. If you are submitting a CD, **DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE RECORDING.**
- C. Entrants are required to submit printed lyrics on separate sheet. Put the song title on the page. And cite the source of the lyrics. **DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE PAGE.**
- D. Application Forms will be available on line at www.SharimvSharot.org beginning December 15, 2010. This form includes: name, address, ZIP code, telephone, e-mail, synagogue affiliation (not required), JCC member (not required), and name of school that the student attends.

What is the deadline for all submissions?

All submissions must be postmarked by February 22, 2011.

How will the submissions be processed?

A non-judge will pick up all submissions from the post office and assign an alphanumeric label to all materials in the package. The Application Form will also receive the same label and will be filed away. In this way, the judges will not know the identities of the contestant. For example, if Sara Cohen is 11 years old on the date of postmark, when the package is received, her name will not appear on any of her creative materials. The number K-1 (K'tanim #1) will put recorded instead. If K-

If I is chosen as the winner, we will then ask to see the list of contestants and look for the identity of K-1. Song materials containing contestants' names will be automatically eliminated from the contest.

Who will judge the contest?

The contest will be judged by professional Jewish educators, Jewish music educators, and Jewish musicians, Cantors, and/or Rabbis. All decisions of the judges are final. If a judge has a child residing in the Princeton-Mercer-Bucks area, he or she shall not be allowed to serve as a judge in the age category of his or her children.

When will contest winners be announced?

A presentation to the contest winners will be made on Sunday, March 27, 2011 during Sharim v'Sharot's Third Princeton Mercer Jewish Choral Festival on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 3 PM, to be held at Congregation Adath Israel, 1958, Lawrenceville Road in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

Are there prizes?

Yes, First-place winners in each category will receive a \$72 check and a certificate. Second-place winners will receive a \$54 check and certificate. Honorable mention may be given at the discretion of the judges.

Each applicant and parent/guardian will be asked to sign a statement giving permission for Sharim v'Sharot to perform the song at the March 27th concert.

Will materials be returned?

All materials become the property of Sharim v'Sharot and cannot be returned. The composers will, of course, retain copyright ownership of their work. We suggest that applicants keep copies of scores and CDs for themselves. This year, all lyrics are in the public domain.

Will the winning songs be performed?

The winning song in each category may be performed at the discretion of Sharim v'Sharot. If performed, either the Sharim v'Sharot Choir will perform the song, as a solo or as a choral composition on March 27th, 2011.

How will authenticity be assured?

Each child and parent or guardian will sign a statement that the song was written by the child alone, not the parent or guardian.

To whom may questions be addressed?

You may address your questions to Dr. Elayne R. Grossman, Conductor and Music Director of Sharim v'Sharot. Use the e-mail link on the Foundation's website: www.SharimvSharot.org .

Please Note:

Applicants may ask Dr. Grossman questions about their song or about song-writing in general. Dr. Grossman is the facilitator of the contest and not a judge. Therefore, she may serve in an advisory capacity. Thanks for your interest and Good Luck!