

St Saviour's *Agnus Dei* Composition Competition

Emerging composers are invited to submit an original musical setting of the *Agnus Dei* as part of the St Saviour's *Agnus Dei* Composition Competition. The winning work will be premiered during St Saviour's *Dedication Festival* service on Sunday 12th July 2026.

Context and Choir

Music is a vital part of the worship and culture of St Saviour's, Pimlico. From the Sunday 10:30am Sung Mass, to our services of Choral Evensong & Benediction, to the weekly Pimlico Lunchtime Concerts, both sacred and secular music enrich the spiritual and cultural lives of our congregation and visitors. The Choir of St Saviour's, Pimlico consists of four Choral Scholars, Junior Choral Scholars and highly valued volunteers. Numbers on a typical Sunday range between approximately 6 and 12 singers, and repertoire must therefore be suitable for smaller forces.

We sing a varied repertoire of both congregational and choral music for our weekly Sunday Sung Mass. Typically, the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Benedictus are sung from a congregational setting, ranging from Thomas Thorne's *Mass in D*, to Richard Shephard's *Addington Service*, to James MacMillan's *St Anne's Mass*. Alongside this, we sing a choral setting of the *Agnus Dei*; we have recently enjoyed singing William Byrd's *Mass for Four Voices*, Josef Rheinberger's *Missa 'St Crucis'* and Lennox Berkeley's *Missa Brevis*. We are keen to expand our repertoire of settings of the *Agnus Dei*, and provide emerging composers with a platform through which to have their works performed in a liturgical context.



Eligibility

This competition is intended for **self-defined emerging composers**. Whilst we place no restrictions based on age, education, or qualifications, it is unlikely that we would select a winning work from a composer with extensive professional composition experience.

Text, Submission Requirements and Guidelines

You may choose to set the *Agnus Dei* text in either Latin or English (traditional or modern translation). Please see the text below:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Settings should be:

- Scored for SATB choir (without divisi).
- Either a cappella/ unaccompanied or with organ accompaniment (if using organ accompaniment, please be aware that the piece will be unconducted and should therefore avoid significant tempo changes/ difficult pauses etc.)
- Last for no longer than 3 minutes.
- Compositions may be in any musical style befitting the text.
- Works do not have to have been written for this call, but cannot have been performed before.

Submissions should be submitted as a PDF and sent to music@stsp.org.uk.

Compositions should be accompanied by a short biography (300 words maximum). This may include: the vision or thought process behind the composition, a reflection on your practice as a composer, your journey with music/composition to date, any experience/ passion for choral music you may have.

In your email, please also indicate whether you would be available to attend the composition workshop on Sunday 21st June at 1-3pm if shortlisted.



Prizes and Performance Opportunities

We are committed to making this opportunity as enriching as possible for composers. We hope that composing an *Agnus Dei* might inspire composers to later write additional movements, providing a springboard for composing a full Mass setting. Every submission will be given careful consideration, and receive brief written feedback. All compositions will be considered for performance at St Saviour's, regardless of whether they are the winning, or shortlisted compositions.

A shortlist of composers will be invited to take part in a composition workshop at St Saviour's, Pimlico on Sunday 21st June at 1-3pm.

This workshop offers a unique chance to hear your music brought to life by the Choir of St Saviour's, Pimlico, and to receive constructive feedback from our panel, including Director of Music, Yvette Murphy.

The winning composition will be announced during the workshop, with the composer receiving £250 to support their ongoing musical development. Two runner-ups will be awarded £125 each.

There is no fee to apply.

Premiere and Rights

The Choir of St Saviour's, Pimlico, will premiere the winning composition on Sunday 12th July 2026. In entering the competition, composers consent to having their works performed during services at St Saviour's, Pimlico. All rights for the work remain with the composer.



Selection Process and Timeline

Monday 26th January 2026: Applications open.

Monday 4th May 2026: Applications close.

Friday 22nd May 2026: All composers informed about the outcome of their application.

Sunday 21st June 2026: Shortlisted composers attend the composition workshop, led by Director of Music, Yvette Murphy.

It is hoped that the winning composer might also be available to attend the premiere at **10.30am on 12th July 2026** at St Saviour's, Pimlico, although this is not mandatory.

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch about the *Agnus Dei* Composition Competition, please contact us at music@stsp.org.uk. To find out more about the Choir of St Saviour's, Pimlico, please visit our website: <https://www.stsp.org.uk/>.