San Antonio Symphony

Carnival of the Animals Poetry Contest

2019-2020 RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. BASIC INFORMATION:
   • The San Antonio Symphony invites students of grades K-6 attending ANY of The Planets’ Young People’s Concert performances (Jan. 2020) to enter the Contest.
   • Contestants will write a poem (150 words or fewer) according to these guidelines about one or more of the animals featured in Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saëns AND submit a video entry of the student applicant performing a dramatic oral reading of the poem.
   • Submitted videos will be reviewed by a panel of judges and scored using the rubric provided (see JUDGING below).
   • Up to three winners will be chosen for each particular performance of the Carnival of the Animals program from among the schools and groups scheduled to attend that performance.
   • Winners will be invited to present an oral reading of their poems onstage at the concerts.

2. IMPORTANT DATES:
   • Fri., Dec. 20, 2019 – Deadline for contest entry. Late submissions will not be considered. Please, no exceptions.
   • Tues., Jan. 7, 2020 – Schools and groups will be notified of the names of their contest winners on or before this date. Winners will have the week(s) between Jan. 7 and the concert dates for additional oral reading preparation.
   • Jan. 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29, 2020 – Carnival of the Animals concerts, at which winners will be invited to present an oral reading of their poems onstage.

3. ELIGIBILITY:
   • Contest entry is open only to students in grades K-6 during the 2019-2020 academic year. Please, no exceptions.
   • All students submitting a contest entry must already be scheduled to attend (by the time of the entry deadline) one of Carnival of the Animals concerts with their class or family on Jan. 15, 21, 22, 28 or 29, 2020.
     o For information regarding concert programs, dates and reservations, please visit: https://sasymphony.org/concerts-events/young-peoples-concert-series/
   • Only one (1) entry per student will be allowed. Please, no exceptions.

4. ENTRY GUIDELINES:
   • Each school or group scheduled to attend a performance of the Carnival of the Animals Young People’s Concert in Jan. 2020 may submit NO MORE THAN THREE (3) contest entries per attending grade level. As needed, participating schools and groups are encouraged to host an in-school or in-class contest prior to the entry deadline and then submit only the three (3) highest-rated entries. Schools submitting more than three entries (per grade level) will have only their first three entries judged. Please, no exceptions.
• Contest entry has two (2) required parts that both must be completed on or before the contest deadline. The two parts, detailed below, are required documents and video submission requirements. Where possible, both the required documents and video submission requirements should be submitted together (e.g., as attachments in an email, together in a mailed envelope, etc.).
  o Required documents: each school or group entering students to the contest MUST submit:
    • one Contest Entry Form (for up to three students per grade level)
    • a scan, photocopy, Word document or PDF of each student’s poem (typed or clearly handwritten, and with student’s name clearly visible). A HANDOUT TEMPLATE is provided below. See also POEM REQUIREMENTS below.
    • a signed Parental Permission Form for each student entered
  ▪ All required documents must be received on or before the contest deadline. Please, no exceptions. Required documents may be submitted by scanned attachment to email or by postal mail to the attention of JEREMY BRIMHALL at:
    • SAN ANTONIO SYMPHONY
      PO BOX 658
      SAN ANTONIO, TX 78293-0658
    • Email: brimhallj@sasymphony.org
  o Video submission requirements: participating schools or groups must submit a video clip for each student entered of the student performing a dramatic oral reading of his or her poem.

Please follow these video submission requirements carefully:
  ▪ The student may be standing or sitting but must be clearly visible and facing the camera.
  ▪ The student’s voice must be clearly audible in the video.
  ▪ At the beginning of the video clip and prior to performing the oral reading of his or her poem, the student must say or read the following: “Hi, my name is (full name of student), and I’m a student at (school name). This is my poem inspired by Carnival of the Animals.” This information can also be found on the HANDOUT TEMPLATE below.
  ▪ The student need not recite his or her poem from memory, but should be encouraged to make frequent eye contact with the camera.
  ▪ Video clips submitted with one or more cuts will be disqualified.
  ▪ Please submit a separate video clip for each student entered.
  ▪ Video clips may be submitted either as electronic files or as private access to an online streaming video platform.

• If submitting an electronic video file or files:
  o The file(s) must be in a commonly used format (e.g., MPEG-4, WMV, MOV).
  o The file(s) must be renamed to reflect the full name and school name of the corresponding student (e.g., “Jeremy Brimhall – Sunburst ES.mov”)
  o Video files may be submitted as direct attachments to email (to brimhallj@sasymphony.org), but it will be the responsibility of the sender to ensure that they are received by the entry deadline.
  o Video files may also be submitted through an online sharing platform, such as Dropbox, Google Drive, etc. A private link to the content must be emailed to brimhallj@sasymphony.org no later than the entry deadline.
  o Video files may also be submitted as saved files on an SD card, thumb/flash/jump/USB drive or DVD and mailed to the attention of JEREMY BRIMHALL at the mailing address above, to be received no later than the entry deadline.
• **If submitting as private access to an online streaming video platform:**
  - Please ensure that the video clip remains private and only accessible to San Antonio Symphony staff (Jeremy Brimhall, Education Director).
  - If private access to the content requires a password, the password must be set as “sasymphony”. Please, no exceptions.
  - The text or name of the streaming content, once accessed, must clearly identify the full student name and school name.
  - vimeo.com is recommended for this submission type as it has a free, basic account type with easy video upload, video clips can be easily shared and made private with a password, the receiver need not have an account to enter the password and view the content.
  - Links to online content should be emailed to brimhallj@sasymphony.org.

5. **POEM REQUIREMENTS:**
   - Student poems for submission should be **150 words or fewer**.
   - Submitted poems MUST relate in some way to the theme of *Carnival of the Animals*. The relation can be subtle but must be reasonably identifiable to the panel of judges without additional explanation.
     - Submitted poems can relate to the musical work *Carnival of the Animals* generally, and/or they can relate to one or more of the animals featured in the work. A specific relation to one or more animals may be directly stated and/or implied through imagery / figurative language.
   - Submitted poems need not have a title.
   - Students should be encouraged to express their feelings about the musical work and/or featured animals and to utilize/incorporate the following poetic elements in their work as appropriate and according to grade level, and as outlined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) objectives for English Language Arts and Reading ([http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter110/ch110a.html](http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter110/ch110a.html)):
     - language that conveys sensory details
     - conventions of poetry (e.g., rhyme, meter, patterns of verse)
     - poetic techniques (e.g., alliteration, internal rhyme, onomatopoeia, rhyme scheme)
     - figurative language (e.g., similes, metaphors)
     - structural elements (e.g., stanzas, line breaks)
     - graphic elements (e.g., capital letters, line length)
   - Free verse poems may be submitted but should be discouraged. All submitted poems will be judged according to the rubric below (see JUDGING).
   - Submitted poems may be a revised or final draft. Teacher guidance and input are expected as long as the work is truly that of the student alone.
   - Any section of any submitted poem that is found to have been copied from another source will be disqualified on grounds of plagiarism, and the school will be notified about the entry.

6. **JUDGING**
   - A panel of judges will review and score the submitted video clips along with the written poems according to the following rubric.
   - Up to three (3) winners will be selected for each of the nine (9) performances of our *Carnival of the Animals* Young People’s Concert. Judges reserve the right to select fewer than three winners from among the entries for any performance should they feel that the level of entries fails to meet a minimum standard.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>San Antonio Symphony Poetry Contest Judging Rubric</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization and Overall Impact</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The form of the poem does not complement the intended subject and/or is not well followed. Problems with cohesion, sequencing and/or structure make it difficult to grasp a clearly-intended meaning. The poem is lacking in originality and imagination, and is ineffective in causing the reader or listener to see, hear, think or feel something about the subject.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Use of Poetic Elements</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conventions of Writing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Oral Reading - Vocal Delivery</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Oral Reading - Physical Delivery</strong></td>
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7. **SUGGESTED PREPARATION:**

- Review ELA-R lessons covering grade-level TEKS objectives related to poetry and speaking.
  - **Example:** Grade 5 TEKS Objective – English Language Arts and Reading, (b) Knowledge and skills:
    - (4) Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Poetry. Students understand, make inferences and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of poetry and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to analyze how poets use sound effects (e.g., alliteration, internal rhyme, onomatopoeia, rhyme scheme) to reinforce meaning in poems.
    - (16) Writing/Literary Texts. Students write literary texts to express their ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas. Students are expected to: ...
      - **(B)** write poems using:
        - (i) poetic techniques (e.g., alliteration, onomatopoeia);
        - (ii) figurative language (e.g., similes, metaphors); and
        - (iii) graphic elements (e.g., capital letters, line length).
    - (28) Listening and Speaking/Spoken. Students speak clearly and to the point, using the conventions of language. Students continue to apply earlier standards with greater complexity. Students are expected to give organized presentations employing eye contact, speaking rate, volume, enunciation, natural gestures, and conventions of language to communicate ideas effectively. ([http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter110/ch110a.html](http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter110/ch110a.html))
      - Numerous resources for getting started with writing poetry are available online.
    - Review Science lessons covering grade-level TEKS objectives related to organisms and environments.
      - Encourage students to research the animals featured in *Carnival of the Animals*, or those featured that most interest them, and to look for inspiration for their poems within the scientific information about the animals, such as with regard to structure, behaviors, functions, traits, ecosystem, diet and food web.
      - Students should be encouraged to use scientific terminology in their poetry.
    - Students and a coaching teacher are encouraged to follow the **five stages of the writing process** (planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) in accordance with grade-level TEKS objectives.
    - Students and a coaching teacher should carefully study the judging rubric above and consult it throughout the writing phase as well as the preparation phase for the recorded oral reading.
    - Students should intimately familiarize themselves with the final versions of their poems, practicing oral readings of it out loud and occasionally in front of a mirror.
    - It is strongly recommended that students entering the contest **have several prior “dry run” performances** for a range of audiences (e.g., for family, friends, class, etc.) including for the camera.
    - Memorization of the poem is not required but will be impressive to the judges, so long as no words or lines are left out in the submitted video clip.
      - Participating students may also use note cards, but should strive for good eye contact with the audience (see Judging Rubric above).

8. **PRIZES:**

- Prizes awarded to Contest Winners will include but may not be limited to the following:
  - Winners will be invited to present an oral reading of their poem onstage at the performance of *Carnival of the Animals* that they are scheduled to attend with their class or family, on Jan. 15, 21, 22, 28 or 29, 2020.
9. **CONTACT INFORMATION:**
   - Please direct all inquiries about the contest to:
     - Jeremy Brimhall | Director of Education | San Antonio Symphony
       o 210.554.1006 | c 210.441.2858 | f 210.554.1008 | m 210.554.1000
       brimhallj@sasymphony.org | sasymphony.org

10. **HANDOUT TEMPLATE:**
   - Please see the following page which may be photocopied and handed out to students.
   - The use of this resource is entirely optional. Poems may also be typed on a computer and submitted as a Word document or PDF.

This space has been intentionally left blank.
Circle all that apply. This is my:

PLAN   FIRST DRAFT   REVISED DRAFT   EDITED DRAFT   FINAL DRAFT

Write your full name and school name in the blanks provided.

“Hi, my name is _____________________________, and I’m a student at _____________________________.
This is my poem inspired by Carnival of the Animals.”