

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCHOLA CANTORUM OF SILICON VALLEY ANNOUNCES FOURTH POETRY TO MUSIC CONTEST FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA — September 10, 2026 — Schola Cantorum Silicon Valley is pleased to announce the opening of its Fourth Poetry to Music Contest, inviting all high school students in Santa Clara County to submit original poems for the opportunity to have their work transformed into a choral composition and performed in concert by one of Silicon Valley's premier choirs.

Under the direction of Buddy James, Schola Cantorum offers this unique opportunity for young writers to experience the power of their words set to music. The theme for this year's contest is "Belonging: Finding Your Place in the World."

"Choral music is a potent vehicle to bring people together. I hope we inspire new ideas about choral repertoire and how to reach the community," said James.

A distinguished panel of judges, including Santa Clara County Poet Laureate Yosimer Reyes, will evaluate all submissions. One winning poem will be selected and transformed into a new choral work for four voice parts by the renowned composer Maria Thompson Corley (mariacorley.com). The winning composition will premiere during Schola's concert, "The Poet Speaks, from Shakespeare to Tomorrow," on May 23, 2027. The concert program will also feature works by Vaughan Williams, Corigliano, Shearing, Lauridsen, and other composers who have set the poetry of William Shakespeare, Dylan Thomas, Sara Teasdale, and others to choral music.

Awards will be presented to the top three poets: \$600 for first place, \$350 for second place, and \$250 for third place.

The contest opens September 10, 2026, and submissions will be accepted through November 16, 2026. All students currently attending high school in Santa Clara County are eligible to enter. Poems must include a title and be 20 lines or fewer. Full contest rules, prize details, important dates, and online entry are available at <https://scholacantorum.org/poetry/>.

ABOUT SCHOLA CANTORUM

Schola Cantorum, now in its 63rd season, is a large, auditioned mixed-voice chorus based in Silicon Valley. Its mission is to connect the Silicon Valley community with the wonders of choral music through outstanding live performances, educational outreach programs, and collaborations with local artists.

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