



ARS is 75! Composition Competition: *The Results Are In!*

The idea for a composition competition came several years ago at an ARS board meeting during a lively discussion of the (then) upcoming 75th anniversary of the ARS. How should we celebrate this wonderful milestone? We wanted to take on a project that we could afford, that we could complete in time, and that would be meaningful to as many ARS members as possible.

Well, the ARS is 75 this year, and our project—the largest, most expansive composition contest we have ever held—is complete. The *ARS is 75!* Composition Competition consisted of five categories: quartet/quintet at the chapter reading level; duo/trio for the low intermediate player; solo for the advanced player; recorder orchestra piece at the upper intermediate level; and a category for young composers.

The response to the *ARS is 75!* Composition Competition was overwhelming! We received 79 submissions from 29 composers residing in 15 states and in Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and India, far surpassing our expectations for the number of submissions and geographical regions represented.

We are pleased to announce the following compositions have been chosen as winners in their respective categories:



Western Union

for recorder quartet
by Peter Dixon
(Concord, MA)



Song of the Heather

for recorder trio
by Robert Agnew
(Las Cruces, NM)



Algunos Lugares 1

for recorder solo
by Marcelo Milchberg
(Paris, France)



Reverie

for recorder orchestra
by Helen-Jean Talbot
(Bowie, MD)

Congratulations to the winners! Each winning composition will be published by the ARS as a special Members' Library *ARS is 75!* Edition and appear, separately, with issues of *American Recorder* throughout the year, except for *Reverie* for recorder orchestra which will be published online as a PDF.

The *ARS is 75!* Composition Competition could not have taken place or been so successful without:

- the approval of the ARS Board of Directors, without whose votes the contest could not have moved beyond the meeting table;
- the brainstorming sessions, hours of emails, and collegial teamwork of Committee Members Ann Stickney, Matt Ross, Jeanne Lynch, and Laura Kuhlman;
- the technological expertise and administrative support of ARS Administrative Director Kathy Sherrick, who helped to make possible an entirely “paperless” endeavor;
- the extraordinary panel of international judges:



Cléa Galhano



Rotem Gilbert



Patrick O'Malley



Hanneke van Proosdij

- and the 29 composers (all ARS members) who, in submitting entries knowing there was no cash prize and with tireless patience for website and software growing pains, supported in a most significant way the ARS and its mission of encouraging and celebrating new music for the recorder.

Cléa Galhano expressed how she “was very impressed with how many compositions were submitted” and how they “were very inspiring and featured different styles, approaches and characters.” Her comment speaks to the success of this project. How natural and perfect, really, that the entries were so varied—as is, wonderfully, the ARS membership!

May playing these new compositions bring much joy and many rewarding challenges to the recorder community for years to come!

Lisette Kielson, ARS is 75! Composition Competition Administrator

