



WCDP Application Guide 2026

For emerging composers, the most difficult stage is often getting your work in front of an audience with a high-level ensemble, while also being afforded the opportunity to grow through the process of composing for performance.

In the choral space, Coro Innominata's Women Composers Development Program offers this rare opportunity to emerging women composers across Australia. We want to help shift the balance toward equal representation of female and male composers in Australian choral programming.

The program is an opportunity for emerging female composers to write a choral work culminating in a guaranteed performance and recording in the year of composition.

In 2026, we are fortunate to have as our program mentor **Dr Lisa Cheney**, one of the most distinctive and versatile compositional voices working in Australia today!

Interested composers can:

- Find out more about Lisa's compositions for the concert hall, theatre, film, animation and dance on her [Lisa Cheney website](#).
- View examples of Coro Innominata choral work on the [Coro Innominata website](#).

Eligibility

- Entry is open to all Australian composers who identify as women and who consider themselves to be emerging.
- Our November 2026 concert **30 Below**, where these works will be performed, showcases early brilliance by featuring music from across history composed by artists under 30. This means that WCDP applicants must be under the age of 30 at the time of writing their works.

Application process

Due date: 11.59PM on Friday 19 June 2026

Applicants are invited to submit a package to coro@innominata.org including:

- **Application letter** outlining how this opportunity will assist your development as a composer
- **CV** outlining your music history, qualifications and previous experience as relevant

- **Two pdf scores of the applicant's compositions.** At least one should involve choir or voice if possible, but this is not essential. Scores should be accompanied by links to recordings/MIDI files in the submission.
- **Any other relevant information** you believe could support your application, eg. references from music professionals who know your work and can vouch for its quality.

WCDP conditions

- Successful applicants are required to compose an original 3-5 minute acapella work for SATB choir (up to 8 parts).
- Texts must either be original, in the public domain, or the composers have received written copyright permission.
- Each composer is required to collaborate with the Mentor Composer, the Coro Innominata Musical Director and the choir during preparation of their work. This will comprise 3-4 mentoring sessions of at least 30 minutes each, plus 2-3 workshops or rehearsals with the choir. This collaboration can be done either in person or virtually.
- Each composer will be paid an honorarium of \$500.00 on final submission of their work.
- First composition drafts from successful composers will be due on **4 September 2026**.
- Final submissions from successful composers will be due on **9 October 2026**.

Selection criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess applications:

- Demonstrated compositional skills
- Evidence of the passion for composition, particularly in the creation of choral works
- Evidence of creative drive that includes a willingness to collaborate with performers
- Evidence of involvement in music making as a composer, performer, curator, host or other role.

Selection process

- The Mentor Composer, the Coro Innominata Musical Director, and two choir members form the selection panel.
- Lisa Cheney is our 2026 Mentor Composer.
- Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by the Musical Director, Mentor Composer and two choir members.
- Two composers will be selected.
- The selection panel will actively seek out people who lack alternative channels for their work to be performed.
- Successful applicants will be notified in the week of **6 July 2026**.

Enquiries

Please contact Philip Eames, Coro Innominata Musical Director via the Coro Innominata Secretary at: secretary@innominata.org