ELIGIBILITY

- Composers age 35 or younger on July 1, 2027.
- Must reside or be pursuing music studies in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming, or Colorado.

PRIZE

- Winning composer will receive a performance of the winning work by Minot Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Efraín Amaya, at Ann Nicole Nelson Hall in Minot, ND.
- $500 cash prize sponsored by descendants of Merritt and Annie Warner.
- Archival recording of the performance.
- The winning composer will be encouraged to attend the performance at their own expense. Composer is welcome to attend the dress-rehearsal at 10am. Performance date TBA.

701.858.4228

www.minotsymphony.com

minotsymphony@gmail.com

Merritt and Annie Warner

In 1917, Merritt Warner married his childhood friend Annie Peck and they established a farm on the shores of Makoti Lake, fifty miles southwest of Minot. They raised their three sons to lead lives of hard work and community service. Their grandchildren would grow into leadership roles in the healing arts, cultural institutions, finance and public policy. At least six of their descendants or their spouses have had long term relationships with the Minot Symphony Orchestra. This award is given by their descendants in honor of their singular efforts in planting that good seed. A reminder that all good things have an origin story and that all great music began with the touch of a pen to a blank sheet of paper.

MINOT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Efraín Amaya - Music Director

Young Composer Competition

For composers age 35 and under living or pursuing music studies in ND, SD, MN, MT, WY, or CO.

Deadline: September 1, 2027

2027
2028

APPLICATION

Submissions must be received no later than September 1, 2027.

To apply: Email a pdf file of the score including a title page with instrumentation listing and duration of the piece. A recording of the work is optional but strongly encouraged (MIDI realizations are acceptable); to minotsymphony@gmail.com.

In the body of the email please include the following:

- Name
- Phone number
- Address
- Birthdate (Please attach a copy of a valid ID with your birthday on it).
- If born out of state, please include proof of enrollment in a college or university from the above states.
- A brief description of the work and notes detailing performance history if any, including all dates and names of performing ensembles.
- Current or most recent educational institution.

For further details contact Maestro Amaya at: minotsymphony@gmail.com or call 701.858.4228.

ENTRY FEE

There is a $15 entry fee per score. Applicants may submit more than one score.

Payments are accepted via PayPal: minotsymphony@gmail.com, check, or call 701-858-4228 to pay with Visa, MC, or Discover. Application fee is not refundable, please review guidelines carefully. Application fee must be paid at the same time as submitting materials.

Submissions can be mailed to:
Minot Symphony Orchestra
500 University Avenue West
Minot, ND 58707
Please include a check for the entrance fee made payable to Minot Symphony Orchestra

JUDGING

Applicants will be judged on their originality, artistic promise, and score presentation by the renown composer John Stevens and by Minot Symphony Orchestra Music Director, Efraín Amaya. The winner will be notified no later than September 15, 2027.

COMPOSITION REQUIREMENTS

Compositions may be up to 10 minutes in length composed for a symphony orchestra. The instrumentation must be no larger than: 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani plus 2 percussionists, piano, and strings. Optional instrumentation includes piccolo, English horn, bass clarinet, and contrabassoon. However, each section should add to a total number of two players per section (e.g. flute/piccolo, oboe/English horn, etc.)

- The work must not have been performed or read by a professional orchestra before. Any orchestra whose members get paid per service or per concert will be considered professional.
- Works with soloists are not eligible.
- Works with electronics are not eligible.

SCORES and PARTS

The winning composer must provide materials needed for the performance and promotion. Printed copies of a full legible score and a set of parts (double sided booklets at least 9x12 or 10 x13 in size), with practical page turns, rehearsal letters and measure numbers. Please provide a bio and a recent photograph.
Winning material must be received at the MSO office no later than October 1, 2027.