

Hymn Text Competition  
2017 Utech Hymnody Symposium and Festival  
Eastman School of Music

The Organ, Sacred Music, and Historical Keyboards Department at the Eastman School of Music is pleased to announce a competition for a new hymn text. The winning text will be included in the program of our biennial Utech Hymnody Symposium and Festival, which will be held at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York on November 17–18, 2017. This year’s symposium and festival will feature guest lecturer Paul Westermeyer and guest organist Bruce Neswick.

We seek a text suitable for a hymnal category of “Gathering,” “Beginning of Service,” or “Morning Hymns.” From the Genevan Psalter tradition we have chosen two tunes: Psalm 136 and Psalm 138 (the notated tunes may be found at: <https://www.esm.rochester.edu/organ/utech/>). We encourage poets to select one of the tunes and submit one text, though we will accept one text submission for each tune. (We will not accept multiple text submissions for a single tune.)

Texts must be submitted by July 15, 2017 and should be sent electronically to Jacob Taylor ([jtay128@u.rochester.edu](mailto:jtay128@u.rochester.edu)), doctoral organ student and Utech Fellow in the Organ, Sacred Music, and Historical Keyboards Department at the Eastman School of Music.

Preliminary judging will take place at Eastman with selected texts then submitted to the panel of judges: Emily Brink, Carl Daw, Sister Delores Dufner, and Martin Jean. The winning text will be announced by September 15, 2017.

The winning text will be sung at an evening hymn festival played by Bruce Neswick on Friday, November 17, 2017 in Rochester.

The winning poet will receive an award in the amount of \$1,000 and travel support (up to \$500) to Rochester for the November symposium and festival.

Eastman will arrange for subsequent performances of the winning hymn at several geographically and denominationally diverse United States churches.