

# Texas A&M University Composition Competition and Symposium Announces 2017 Student Composition Contest Winner

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Photo by Amy Jacobsen/Dallas Morning News Staff Photographer

The winner of this year's composition is Quinn Mason for his work entitled: *There's Been A Breach*

Quinn Mason is currently a student at Richland College where he studies composition with Jordan Kuspa. For four years, Quinn studied with UTD's Dr. Winston Stone who guided him through the fundamentals of music theory and composition. In June 2013, Quinn's "Bulldog Fanfare" was performed at his North Dallas High School graduation. Quinn received The Dallas Foundation's Tommy Tranchin Award to work with UTD's Dr. Robert Rodriguez in summer 2013. In June 2015, Quinn was selected as a winner in the American Composers Forum NextNotes High School Competition that included travel to Minneapolis to work with professional composer mentors, including Libby Larsen, a performance of his winning composition by

professional musicians and cash awards. The winning work was also performed at the Dallas Museum of Art. In 2016, Quinn was named first place in the Voices of Change 2016 Texas Young Composers project with his piece “Two Fleeting Daydreams”. Quinn was recently commissioned by Dallas based art song organization Voces Intimae for a song cycle, “Confessions from a Dream”, which will be premièred in April of 2017.

In December 2015, SMU’s Cézanne Quartet premiered a movement of Quinn’s Quartet No. 5 that was repeated in the home of Morton Meyerson. In January 2016, Quinn’s music was featured on WRR’s program “New at Nine.” Quinn has written a series of bassoon etudes published and recorded by Norwegian bassoonist Kristian Oma Rønnes. Quinn has also worked as a copyist for Mary Alice Rich’s opera, Wading Home.

Quinn’s personal mission is to write music that is, “Based in traditional classical music, but reflects the times in which we currently live”.

The composition faculty of the Department of Performance Studies at Texas A&M University would like to express sincere gratitude to all of the composers who submitted works to this year’s competition. The Texas A&M University Composition Competition and Symposium was founded as a three-year sustainable event. If you still meet the criteria for eligibility, we encourage you to apply again in a future year.