



STATEMENT of PRINCIPLES **The American Prize Competitions**

The following seven principles guide the administration of The American Prize, insuring that the competitions are fair and valuable to all contestants.

- 1. The American Prize competitions adhere to strict timelines.** Individuals or organizations who apply to compete for The American Prize receive timely communication from the competition office and know before they apply when semi-finalists, finalists and winners will be announced.
- 2. The American Prize is more than monetary.** In addition to cash prizes, the competitions provide winners with professional adjudication, and recognition for achievement. Finalists will be announced and winners profiled on The American Prize website and blog, with links to winning performances. The competition office will communicate news directly to local, regional and national media on behalf of applicants.
- 3. The American Prize judging panel will be varied in skills and geography.** The judges of The American Prize will be individuals with broad experience, from all over the country, collectively representing professional, community, faith-based and public school performing artists and educators.
- 4. The American Prize provides constructive adjudication.** Evaluations from judges will be at all times positive, useful and respectful.
- 5. Application fees for The American Prize will remain modest.** The American Prize is not-for-profit, administered by Hat City Music Theater, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
- 6. The American Prize provides diversity of opportunity.** The competitions will be annual events, broad enough in scope to provide opportunity to organizations and individuals who might not otherwise be invited to compete nationally. In addition to categories for professional musicians and ensembles, applications will be welcomed from community, school and faith-based musicians, organizations and artistic leaders. Neither the location nor repertoire of any qualified individual, nor the size, or make-up of any qualified organization will limit eligibility. Excellence within categories is the primary criteria for the selection of finalists and winners.
- 7. The American Prize will expand, when practical, to include other performing artists and ensembles.** Competitions will be added annually, as interest warrants.