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THE HERMITAGE
artist retreat



**Composer and Soprano Hannah Rice Wins
2024 Hermitage Prize in Composition
at Aspen Music Festival & School**

*Hannah Rice, a composition student at the **Aspen Music Festival and School**, will receive a residency and Fellowship at the **Hermitage Artist Retreat** in Sarasota County, Florida.*

August 12, 2024 (Sarasota County, Florida) — **The Hermitage Artist Retreat** and the **Aspen Music Festival and School** (Aspen, Colorado) are pleased to announce that **Hannah Rice**, a composition student at AMFS, has been selected as the recipient of the **2024 Hermitage Prize in Composition**. Rice is the eleventh recipient of this annual award, which includes a residency at the Hermitage, along with a \$1,000 cash stipend. Rice was selected by a jury that includes multiple Grammy Award winner **Robert Spano**, Music Director of the AMFS, Artistic Director Laureate of the Atlanta Symphony, and a past member of the Hermitage Curatorial Council; award-winning composer and celebrated arts administrator **Alan Fletcher**, AMFS President and CEO; and the composition faculty of the AMFS, including Grammy Award-winning Hermitage Fellow **Christopher Theofanidis**.

Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO **Andy Sandberg** presented the award to Rice at the Aspen Music Festival's Klein Tent, alongside Spano, Fletcher, Theofanidis, and award-winning composer and Hermitage Fellow **Nico Muhly**. This unique initiative, launched in 2013, reflects an invaluable partnership between AMFS and the Hermitage, designed to champion new and original works and to recognize exceptional talent in the field of contemporary classical music. To celebrate the tenth anniversary of this award last year, the Hermitage and AMFS produced a retrospective video featuring exclusive interviews with past winners, distinguished AMFS faculty members, and renowned thought leaders in music, which can be seen [here](#) (full URL link below). With established composers like Spano, Fletcher, Theofanidis, Muhly and more having experienced memorable Hermitage Fellowships, the Hermitage Prize in Composition

was created to offer the same experience to young, talented composers just beginning their professional careers.

“We are thrilled to recognize **Hannah Rice** as the winner of the eleventh Hermitage Prize. She is a brilliant young composer and vocalist, and a welcome addition to the Hermitage family,” noted Sandberg. “We were delighted that the weekend’s festivities could be celebrated alongside fellow Hermitage alumni including Robert Spano, Alan Fletcher, Nico Muhly, and Christopher Theofanidis.” Sandberg adds that the Hermitage Prize at AMFS is the only student residency awarded each year; all other Hermitage Fellows are accomplished working professionals and leaders in their field, selected by the Hermitage’s National Curatorial Council. “This provides the recipient of the annual Hermitage Prize in Composition the opportunity to share this unmatched Hermitage experience with leading artists from all around the world.”

This year’s 75th Anniversary season of the Aspen Music Festival featured works and performances from Hermitage alumni including **Alan Fletcher, Allison Loggins-Hull, Wang Lu, Missy Mazzoli, Jessie Montgomery, Nico Muhly, Robert Spano, Conrad Tao, and Christopher Theofanidis.**

Hermitage Fellows have included 17 Pulitzer Prize winners, multiple Grammy, Oscar, Emmy, and Tony winners, Poets Laureate, MacArthur 'Genius' Fellows, and more. Hermitage Fellows regularly describe their time at the Hermitage as "magical," "transformative," and "life-changing."

"I am so honored and humbled to have received this year's Hermitage Prize in Composition," added Rice after learning the news of her recognition. "I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all those involved with the selection process and the Hermitage Artist Retreat. I feel so privileged and thrilled to get to work on my craft alongside so many outstanding creative thinkers. As artists, it is so rare to have this kind of time and space available to us to live in a 'sound world' and discover what our musical souls are yearning to say, and I feel incredibly lucky and excited to have been gifted this time at the Hermitage."

Hannah Rice is a composer and soprano who is drawn to extremes. A 2024 Composition Fellow at the Aspen Music Festival, she writes with dense textures and stark contrasts to highlight the experiences of women and queer folks through a feminist lens. Rice’s music has been performed at notable festivals and venues including Carnegie Hall, Cadogan Hall in London, New Music on the Point, the International Clarinet Festival, Atlantic Music Festival, and more. Her film music has also been featured on APM Music’s sound library, MPATH, and in 2021, her choral piece “To Fly a Plane” was published by Hal Leonard. Currently, Rice is pursuing a double M.M. at USC’s Thornton School of Music, where she was recently awarded the Peter David Faith Endowed Memorial Award. She holds a B.M. in Composition and Voice from LSU, where she was named a Presser Scholar and University Medalist.

Previous residencies of AMFS Hermitage Prize recipients have led to exciting collaborations, lifelong friendships, and extraordinary new compositions. The first winner of this award in 2013 was **Patrick Harlin**. While in residence at the Hermitage, Harlin met acclaimed designer and visual artist **Anne Patterson**. The two sparked a decade-long collaboration that has led to the current world premiere exhibition, “The Truth of the Night Sky,” currently on view at the Sarasota Art Museum through September 29. Harlin and Patterson also spent time at the Hermitage with AMFS composer **Christopher Theofanidis** and celebrated poet Melissa **Studdard**; as a result, these four Hermitage alumni are now working on an oratorio adaptation of Hermann Hesse’s *Siddhartha*, which will premiere at the Aspen Musical Festival in 2025.

Past winner **David Clay Mettens** (2021) said of winning the Hermitage Prize: “My time at the Hermitage was such a gift – I found the natural beauty of the grounds to be rejuvenating and my interactions with artists from other disciplines so artistically fulfilling. I can’t imagine a better opportunity for a young composer than to be in the presence of creative luminaries in their respective fields.” **Sofia Rocha** (2022) added, “Some of the most valuable experiences that I got out of my time at AMFS and the Hermitage were interacting with so many other wonderful artists. Aspen is filled with wonderful musicians, and Hermitage artists span so many different disciplines – and I find that incredibly fulfilling and inspiring.” Previous Hermitage Prize recipients include **Patrick Harlin** (2013), **Thomas Kotcheff** (2014), **Phillip Sink** (2015), **Andrew Hsu** (2016), **Joel Thompson** (2017), **Sid Richardson** (2018), **Chelsea Komschlies** (2019), **David Clay Mettens** (2021), **Sofia Rocha** (2022), and **Matīss Čudars** (2023).

A leading national arts incubator, the Hermitage is the *only* major arts organization in Florida’s Gulf Coast exclusively committed to supporting the development and creation of new work across all artistic disciplines. The Hermitage hosts artists on its Gulf Coast Manasota Key campus for multi-week residencies, where diverse and accomplished artists from around the world and across multiple disciplines create and develop new works of theater, music, visual art, literature, dance, film, and more. As part of their residencies, Hermitage Fellows participate in free year-round community programs, offering audiences in the region a unique opportunity to engage with some of the world’s leading artists and to get an authentic “sneak peek” into extraordinary projects and artistic minds before their works go on to major galleries, concert halls, theaters, and museums around the world. These innovative programs include performances, conversations, readings, interactive experiences, open studios, school programs, teacher workshops, and more, serving thousands in our regional community each year.

To learn more about the Aspen Music Festival and School, visit [AspenMusicFestival.com](https://www.aspenmusicfestival.com). To learn more about the Hermitage and its upcoming programs, or to support this organization in its mission to champion artists and the creative process, visit [HermitageArtistRetreat.org](https://www.hermitageartistretreat.org).

Hermitage Prize Video Link and Landing Page:
<https://HermitageArtistRetreat.org/HermitagePrizeAspen/>

For more information about the Hermitage and upcoming programs, visit:
HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

Hannah Rice

Composer and soprano **Hannah Rice** is a Composition Fellow at the 2024 Aspen Music Festival. Drawn to extremes, she writes with dense textures and stark contrasts to highlight the experiences of women and queer folks through a feminist lens. Rice's music has been performed at notable festivals and venues including Carnegie Hall, Cadogan Hall in London, New Music on the Point, the International Clarinet Festival, Atlantic Music Festival, and more. Her film music has also been featured on APM Music's sound library, MPATH. A champion of vocal music, Rice was recently commissioned by Vox Anima London to write a choral piece for their 2024 International Women's Day Concert in London. Her choral piece "To Fly a Plane" from *Dear World* was published by Hal Leonard. She is working on a new art song for the Prima Voce Emerging Artist 2025 Season. Not only is Rice a composer, but she is also an active performer of opera and new music. Her recent roles include the soprano soloist in Kaija Saariaho's *La Passion de Simone*, Controller in *Flight*, Soeur Constance in *Dialogues des Carmelites*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, Despina in *Così fan tutte*, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in her own chamber opera *Seneca Falls*. She is also an avid performer of chamber and choral music, recently appearing as the soprano soloist in Edge Ensemble's performance of Nina Shekhar's "Quirkhead" and singing weekly as a chorister in the Choir of St. James. Rice is pursuing a double M.M. at USC's Thornton School of Music, where she was recently awarded the Peter David Faith Endowed Memorial Award in composition for her orchestra piece [æ]. She holds a B.M. in Composition and Voice from LSU, where she was named a Presser Scholar and University Medalist.

The Hermitage Artist Retreat

Sarasota County, Florida
Andy Sandberg, Artistic Director and CEO

The Hermitage is a leading national arts incubator and multidisciplinary artist retreat located on Manasota Key, Florida. For more than two decades, the Hermitage has invited accomplished artists across multiple disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Hermitage artists are invited to interact with the local community, reaching thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors each year with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage Fellows have included 17 Pulitzer Prize winners, Poets Laureate, Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellows, and multiple Tony, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar winners and nominees. Works created at this beachside retreat by a diverse and accomplished group of Hermitage alumni have gone on to renowned theaters, concert halls, and galleries throughout the world. Each year, the Hermitage awards the Hermitage Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, the Hermitage Major Theater Award for an original theater commission, and the Aspen Music Festival's Hermitage Prize in Composition.

For more information, visit HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

The Hermitage is supported by:

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The Aspen Music Festival and School

Founded in 1949, the Aspen Music Festival and School (AMFS) is the United States' premier classical music center for performance and education, presenting more than 200 musical events during its eight-week summer season in Aspen. The organization draws top classical musicians from around the world for a rich combination of performances of orchestral works, opera, chamber music, recitals, contemporary music, works by new or previously unrecognized voices, popular genres, family events, and talks, competitions, and classes. More than 450 music students from 40 U.S. states and 40 countries come each summer to play in four orchestras, sing, conduct, compose and study with more than 100 artist- faculty members who come from the orchestras of Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Dallas, the Metropolitan Orchestra, and the leading conservatories and music schools like The Juilliard School, The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, and The Colburn School. AspenMusicalFestival.com

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