



## The Abraham Trilogy Composition Competition

Opera Darom and Studio HaMikledet are looking to commission a body of liturgical dramas by living Israeli composers based on texts from the weekly Torah portion.

### Summary:

Opera Darom is looking to premiere a series of three short dramatic works telling the Abraham story through the text of the Hebrew bible. Israeli composers are invited to submit short dramatic works (operas, cantatas, etc) for the competition.

### Requirements:

- 20 minute dramatic work scored for four SATB soloists and piano, plus an easy children's chorus, with optional parts and harmonies to add.
- The text of the piece is the biblical text, and it is sung in the original Hebrew.
- Composers may compile their own libretto by choosing the stories and texts to highlight, or request a libretto created from the biblical text by a team of editors.
- Each work will tell a story from either Parashat Lech Lecha, VaYeira or Chaiyei Sarah.
- Competition is open to all composers with an Israeli ID card.

### Evaluation Rubric:

- Drama: Does it tell the biblical story? Is there drama in the music? (20%)
- Difficulty: Is it easy to learn? Can pros learn it in 1-2 rehearsals? (20%)
- Likability: Is the piece melodious and memorable? Musically interesting? (20%)
- Pacing: Does it drag? Mix of arias, ensembles, choral pieces & interludes (20%)
- Music Education: Is there a catchy kids chorus with easy optional harmonies? (Part songs, rounds, ostinati or 2-part harmony.) Clever musical references? 20%

### Prizes:

- 1st Prize—\$2,000
- 2nd Prize—\$1,500
- 3rd Prize—\$1,000

Winning compositions will receive a premiere performance at Abraham's Well in Be'er Sheva as part of the Opera Darom 2026 Season. Works may be performed as concert productions, semi-staged or puppet theatre. These 20-minute works will be filmed and distributed to serve as a demo for the series.

Top winner(s) will also be offered the title of composer-in-residence of Opera Darom for 2026-27, which includes a guaranteed commission of at least one additional work for the 2026-2027 season.

**Submissions:**

Composers may submit the 20-minute work in its completion, or else a single piece of theirs, along with a detailed plan outlining the rest of the composition. Such a submission may be a newly composed for the competition, or an existing composition that conforms to the requirements of the competition.

The plan should outline of voice type sings each character, a plan for each individual piece, and a complete libretto compiled from the verses that will be used to tell the story.

Please submit the score, recordings or audio files and a one-page explanation of your composition. Only compositions meeting contest requirements will be evaluated.

Please send all submission materials to: [HaMikledetB7@gmail.com](mailto:HaMikledetB7@gmail.com)

**No later than June 30, 2026**

