

Music Composition

MUSIC COMPOSITION is the process of creating a new piece of music. The **composer** (student submitting entry) is a person who expresses their own thoughts and ideas through the use of sound. The student composer may submit an entry performed by an individual or group and/or make use of a sound library generated performance of a composed score. Student composers are not required to perform their composition, but a recording of the composition must be included.

Consider the following musical styles and instruments to portray your original composition: a cappella, blues, choral, country, electronic, hip hop, jazz, latin, musical, orchestral, pop, r&b, religious, rock, symphonic/concert band, and traditional.

An explanation of the origin of the music and/or the significance of the music style might be a useful addition to the artist statement when submitting a music composition that involves traditional, cultural or regional instruments. Whether an entry displays formal composition technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. **Consider structure, melody, rhythm, instruments, lyrics, emotion, etc. to show a clear relation to the theme.**

All instruments, sounds, styles, and combinations are accepted. Software may be used to produce an audio recording. Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted. Digital technology and/or software can be used to develop, enhance and/or present an entry but may not provide the primary design and/or concept. Entrants must use the “Additional Details” field to *provide a brief description of the tools and methods used*, including any generative elements.

Audio recording (required for all entries):

- Student composers are not required to perform their composition and may submit an entry performed by an individual, group and/or make use of a sound library generated performance of a composed score.
- Software may be used to produce an audio recording. *Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted.*

Music score/notation (required for middle and high school grade divisions only):

- Middle and high school grade divisions must include music score/notation, either traditional or tablature, or a written reflective statement (100 words or less).
- If submitting a reflective statement, *it does not replace the required entry artist statement.* The reflective statement must be distinct from the artist statement and must provide a technical musical explanation of how the music was created. Whereas the artist statement emphasizes the Reflections theme, *a reflective statement emphasizes the musical elements in the creative process.*
- Notation software may be used to create a score. Whether the score is hand-written or software-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.

Suggestions for Audio Quality:

- Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument(s) or speakers.
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).
- Record a short test and listen to it. If needed, change the record volume or microphone location.
- Make sure the music is audible on the recording.
- Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

Submission Requirements:

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Notation is required in addition to the artist statement for the middle and high school divisions. Notation provided digitally must be PDF.
- Audio recording must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1,000 MB (1,000 megabyte) in file size.
- Accepted audio file formats are: .mp3, or .wav.
- Submit artwork and student entry form according to your local, council, and state guidelines.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation