



# 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. Middle and high school grade divisions require music score/tablature/notation, either traditional or tablature.

## Reflect on the 2019-2020 Theme: Look Within

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.

All instruments, sounds, styles and combinations are accepted. Software may be used to produce an audio recording that does not include commercially pre-programmed imported MIDI or other source files. Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted. 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.

**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.

### Notation & Score: (Middle School & High School Divisions Only)

- Music score/tablature/notation required for middle school and high school divisions. Accepted file types include PDF.
- Notation software may be used to create a score.
- Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance.

### 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.
- Audio recording must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.
- Accepted audio file formats include: MP3, WMA, WAV, ACC (M4A) and FLAC.
- Label audio file and USB drive with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (Example: UT.MUSIC.PRI.SMITH.JOHN).

### Packaging Requirements:

- Entry must be submitted in a manila envelope (10 inch x 13 inch)
- Tape a plastic sheet cover to the outside of the manila envelope
- Put labeled USB drive and score (if applicable) into the envelope.
- Slide Student Entry Form and Artist Statement page into plastic sheet cover.

**All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation**

**National  
PTA<sup>®</sup>**

*everychild.one voice.<sup>®</sup>*