



MUSIC COMPOSITION is the process of creating a new piece of music. The composer 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/tablatore/notation, either traditional or tablatore.

2018-2019 Theme: Heroes Around Me

Consider the following musical styles to portray your original composition: A cappella, blues, choral, country, electronic, hip hop, jazz, world music, musical, orchestral, pop, R&B, religious, rock, symphonic/concert band and traditional.

All music styles and combinations of instrumentation 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. However, only the artist statement from the official entry form will be used for the National level of the competition. 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.

Originality: Only new and original songs inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the work of one student only.

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

Presentation: Audio must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size. Videos are not accepted. Accepted audio file formats include: MP3, WMA, WAV, ACC, FLAC.

Ideas 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. Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

Notation & Score Required for Middle School & High School Divisions Only. 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. Number each page. Print on 8.5x11 (one sided only) and save/scan score as a single PDF.

Packaging:

- Label audio file, notation/score (if applicable) and CD/USB Drive with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (Example: VA.MUSIC.PRI.SMITH.JOHN)
- Submit music composition and student entry form according to your local PTA's instructions.