



Music Composition – Specific Rules/Guidelines

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/tablatore/notation, either traditional or tablatore.*

Reflect on the 2020-2021 Theme: *I Matter Because...*

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.

Originality: Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted. Only one entry may be submitted by each student. 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. **Student should not be identified in the recording.** 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. Music videos are not allowed.

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 8.5"x11" (one sided only) or save/scan score as a single PDF.

Student's name should not appear on the front of any page.

Packaging:

- Accepted audio file formats include: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC (M4A) and FLAC.
- Label audio file, notation/score (*if applicable*) and CD/USB Drive with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (*Example: TN.MUSIC.PRI.SMITH.JOHN*)
- Submit music composition and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

State Specific Instructions: See the Tennessee PTA – Local Leaders Guide at <http://tnpta.org/reflections.html> for requirements. All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.