

## Category 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, 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.

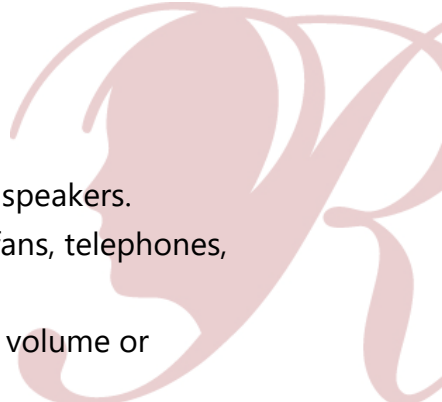
**All instruments, sounds, styles and combinations are accepted.** Software may be used to produce an audio recording. Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted. Digital technology and/or software can be used to develop, enhance and/or present an entry but may not provide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

### **Music Score/Notation (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 that provides a musically technical explanation of how the music was created (100 words or less).
- 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:**

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- 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 for the middle and high school divisions. Accepted file types include PDF.
- Audio recording must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1,000 MB (1,000 megabyte) in file size.
- Accepted audio file formats include: MP3 and WAV. MP4 and video files are NOT accepted.
- Do not say student name anywhere in the audio entry including opening and ending credits.
- Submit artwork and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.
- If necessary, label CD/DVD/flash drive with title of artwork, arts category and division.

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