National PTA Reflections Program Music Composition

Students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the following Literature Rules.

A music composition entry may be for voice, instruments, or a combination of voice and instruments. Lyrics may or may not be included in vocal compositions. The composition is not to exceed five minutes. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

The use of composition software is permitted. The recording submitted may capture performers in real-time or may make use of a sound library generated performance of a score composed in its entirety by the student participant. The entry may not include commercially pre-programmed imported MIDI or other source files, or use algorithmic composition software.

Use of notation software for the purpose of creating scores and printed parts is permitted. Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance.

Music Composition entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well a student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- The music composition should directly relate to the theme.
- Submit a CD of a performance of the composition.
- The composer is not required to be the performer (or one of the) performer(s).

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument 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, improve recording quality by changing the record volume or microphone location.
- Make sure the music is audible on the recording.
- Return to the beginning of the CD and record two seconds of silence; then start performing your composition. Finish with another two seconds of silence.

Format

- Save the entry as an **.mp3** file.
- The recorded performance should be saved as a file on a CD, not as a CD/DVD movie.
- Name the file in **lower case** letters ***exactly*** in this order:

  state abbreviation.arts category.grade level.student last name.student first name.mp3

  Example: md.music.mid.smith.mary.mp3
  (Grade levels should be indicated only as pri, int, mid, sen)

- Submit the CD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the CD and the container **with the file name, as indicated above.**

Musical Notation

Whether a student must submit musical notation is determined by his or her grade division:

- **Primary and Intermediate:** No notation is required. Iconic notation may be submitted. Iconic notation is "made-up" notation.
- **Middle and Senior:** Notation, either traditional or tablature, is required.

- A student's composed work may be performed by a group or may make use of a sound library generated performance of a score composed in its entirety by the student participant.
- **Score:**
  ____ Score pages should be numbered and no larger than 8.5 inches by 11 inches.

  ____ Do not mount or bind the scores.

  ____ **Number each page.**

  ____ **Label each page of the score as follows:**

  State abbreviation.arts category.grade level.score.student last name.student first name.pdf
  Example: md.music.mid.score.smith.mary.pdf

Labeling Your Documents and Files

Submissions that win at local levels will be forwarded to the next level of adjudication. Final judging of winning entries occurs at the national level where all entries are received in an electronic format using the file names outlined below. It is therefore very important to follow these instructions exactly when labeling files and forms.

- Label the bottom of each page submitted in hard copy with the appropriate file name as indicated.
- Place all file names in the **bottom right corner of each page,** so that identifying information can be easily concealed if needed.
- Do not write or type anything on the back of any page of paper.

Student Entry Form

- Please complete all information on the Student Entry Form.
- Label the form in the **bottom right hand corner** as follows:

  state abbreviation.arts category.grade level.entry.student last name.student first name.pdf
  For example: md.music.mid.entry.smith.mary.pdf

- On the student Entry Form, please answer the following:
  - Name(s) of person(s) who performed your composition.
  - Did you use traditional or MIDI instrumentation?
  - If you used composition software, what software did you use?
- The required **Title** and required **Artist Statement** should be included. If the required Artist statement is too long to fit on the form, please write "See Attachment" on the form. Then submit the Artist Statement in its entirety on a separate piece of paper. Label the artist statement as follows:

  state abbreviation.arts category.grade level.statement.student last name.student first name.doc
  Example: md.music.mid.statement.smith.mary.doc

Consent Form

Completed and signed Consent Forms must be included for all individuals whose recognizable images or voices appear in a Reflections entry. Individuals over the age of eighteen may sign their own Consent Form. A parent or legal guardian must sign for individuals under the age of eighteen.

- Label each Consent Form in the **bottom right hand corner** as follows:

  State abbreviation.arts category.grade level.consent.student last name.student first name.pdf
  Example: md.music.mid.consent.smith.mary.pdf

Packing

- Pack the Student Entry Form, Artist Statement, and Consent Form(s) in a large manila envelope that opens and closes with a clasp. **Do not glue the envelope shut,** as it needs to be able to be opened and closed through various stages of judging. The envelope should be at least 8.5 x 11 inches, as the forms inside should not be folded.

Label the outside of the clasp side of the envelope as follows:

State abbreviation.arts category.grade level.student last name.student first name

Example: md.music.mid.smith.mary