

# MUSIC COMPOSITION

## Description

The science or art of arranging music by ordering tones or sounds in succession.

## Overview

Get ready to unleash your creativity and compose an original piece of music that showcases your unique voice! In this competition, you'll be judged on your creativity, musical structure, harmonic and rhythmic association, melodic strength, theoretical understanding, and overall presentation. Your composition can be performed live or submitted as a pre-recorded piece—so bring your best sound and show the world your musical talent!

## Requirements

1. **Original Composition:** Submit one original, notarized composition.
2. **Formatting:** The top page of the composition must include the contestant's name, page number, and unit name and number.
3. **Manuscript:** The composition must be neatly written on standard music manuscript paper, clear enough for any trained musician to perform. Electronically generated manuscripts (Finale, Sibelius, etc.) must be carefully proofread to ensure accurate quantization. All submissions must demonstrate a strong understanding of the chosen medium.
4. **Audio Recording:** Submit an MP3 audio file of the composition along with the National Registration materials. Local units may allow CD submissions for local competitions.
5. **Time Limit:** The composition must not exceed five (5) minutes. Exceeding this time limit may result in point deductions or disqualification.
6. **Performance:** Students must perform their piece without affecting their interview time. Performances can be live or pre-recorded. Pre-recorded performances must be arranged and produced by the contestant—it can feature collaborative performers, however additional points are not awarded for collaborations.

**Necessary equipment:**

1. Laptop w/charger or a CD Playing device
2. Speakers
3. [Dongle Adapter](#) for Macbooks
4. Aux Adaptor for playback from phones
  - a. USB C to 3.5 mm Aux Jack (Most modern devices)
  - b. Lightning to 3.5 Aux Jack (older apple devices)
5. Aux cable
6. Outlet Surge Protector

Judging Criteria		
Criteria	Points	Description
Creative Sense	10	
Form	20	
Harmonic and Rhythmic Interest	20	
Melodic Strength	10	
Execution of Manuscript (performance)	10	
Theoretical Understanding	20	

Quality of Manuscript	10	
Point Deduction	-1 to 5	
		In the event the student composition exceeds 5 mins one point will be deducted for every minute over up to five points.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	

### Submission Guidelines

- Ensure that all submissions are original and adhere to the specified guidelines.
- Submit the notarized composition, MP3 audio file, and National Registration materials by the deadline.

### Showcase Your Musical Talent!

This competition is an opportunity to express your creativity and technical skills as a composer. Good luck!

### Notes for Judges

- This competition is interview based and requires advanced screening of the contestants materials in order to adequately interview them on the day of the competition
  - Each contestant will have 5 minutes to present their composition and then the judging co-hort will have 5-10 minutes for any follow up questions and quick deliberations before the next contestant. Each contestant will only have an allocated time frame of 10-15 minutes.
  - You should not under any circumstances engage with the students before or after the competition until the Awards Ceremony has concluded.
  - You must provide honest constructive feedback for each contestant that you are judging.
  - Scoring Rubric:
    - 95 TO 100 - Qualifies as a Gold Medalist
    - 90 & Up - Qualifies as a Silver Medalist
    - 85 & Up - Qualifies as a Bronze Medalist
- Please take heed that the identifying word here is “Qualifies”. There can be multiple contestants that can qualify as gold medalists and if

that's the case the highest score will receive the gold, and silver and bronze will be allocated to the next two highest scores.

- In the event the highest score is a 90 then there is no gold medalist and there's only a possibility for a silver and bronze medalist as long as the remaining scores land within the 85+Up region.