

# ORIGINAL COMPOSITION CONTESTS

*Coordinator's phone number and email are listed at the back of this book on the SA Committee page.*

**More information, including deadlines, fees, registration forms, and Coordinator's address, may be found on the Website at [www.tmta.org](http://www.tmta.org).**

**Questions regarding this contest should be directed to the TMTA-SA Original Composition Contest Coordinator by the Local Original Composition Chair only. Response will be given to no other contact. *Each local chair is responsible for ensuring that every submission requirement is met on all forms, scores, and CDs from that association before mailing the entries to the state chair.***

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## General Information

1. Entries may be composed for any medium.
2. A student may enter only one composition in a given division.
3. Compositions entered previously may not be re-entered in subsequent years.
4. Compositions may be in one or more movements, but the performance time for an entire work must not exceed ten minutes.

## Eligibility

1. **All students in grades 1-12 must have passed an appropriate state-graded theory test.** They may take either the Fall or Spring test. (Please see page 23 and Theory section, page 44, number 2.)
2. Post-12 is defined as those not having reached age 27 by the entry **deadline**. Post-12 entrants are exempt from the theory requirement.
3. Compositions must be judged locally. It is strongly recommended that compositions be performed on a local program between January and May of the entry year. Students may edit their compositions using the critiques given by the local judges before sending them to the state contest.

## Contest Divisions

1. Divisions designated by S are for solo compositions with one performer only. This division does not include voice/piano or instrumental/piano.
2. Divisions E and L are for ensemble compositions. For contest purposes, an ensemble is defined as any composition requiring two or more performers.
  - a. Division E is for ensemble compositions requiring 10 or fewer voices and/or instruments with one performer per part. If percussion is included, one percussion performer counts as one voice or one instrument, even though that performer may be playing more than one instrument.
  - b. Division L is for compositions requiring more than 10 voices and/or instruments with one performer per part.
3. Contest divisions are as follows:

Division S1-3	Grades 1-3	Division E1-4	Grades 1-4
Division S4	Grade 4	Division E5-8	Grades 5-8
Division S5	Grade 5	Division E9-12	Grades 9-12
Division S67	Grades 6-7	Division EP12	Post-12
Division S8-9	Grades 8-9	Division L1-12	Grades 1-12
Division S10-12	Grades 10-12	Division LP12	Post-12
Division SP12	Post-12		

## Applications

1. Individual entries must be on the application form provided at [www.tmta.org/forms](http://www.tmta.org/forms). One copy of this form is mandatory and must be paper clipped to the fully labeled copy of the score.
2. All entries for each association should be listed on the Composition Contest fee form, (available on TMTA Website) by the number of entries in each division and the total fees required in that division. Incorrect or incomplete forms will disqualify all entries from that association.
3. Remit all **entry fees** in a single check from the local association, (payable to TMTA) to the TMTA office. This envelope sent to the TMTA office must include 1) the single check, 2) the Multi-Purpose Form, and 3) the Composition Contest Fee Form.
4. **Mail** a package to the Original Composition State Coordinator with 1) one copy of the completed Composition Contest Fee Form, 2) a copy of the completed Multi-Purpose Form, 3) three properly prepared scores (and CDs if required) per entry, and 4) one completed application form clipped to each entry's set of scores. If the set of scores/CDs for one entry is too large to be paper clipped together, use a strong rubber band or put that entry in its own manila envelope, but keep it in its proper place in the group of entries (see "Submission of Manuscripts", #9). **Do not send by certified mail that requires a signature.**
5. A valid email address for the local association chair is **mandatory** on the Composition Contest Fee Form for all contest communication. A valid email address for the teacher and the student/parent is necessary on the application form for communication with winners, unless all communication via the local association chair is desired.
6. Confirmation of receipt of entries will be sent by email within two weeks of receipt of the package by the state chair.

## Submission of Manuscripts

**Each local chair is responsible for ensuring that every submission requirement is met on all forms, scores, and CDs from that association before mailing the entries to the state chair.**

1. **Four copies of the score of each composition (solo and ensemble) must be submitted. Three of these copies must not contain** any personal identification of the composer, copyright holder, teacher, or local association. The **fourth copy must contain** proper identification of the composer, at least, for the TMTA archives. Sharp, legible copies are required. Final copies should not be edited or revised by a teacher or judge.
2. Manuscripts must be on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. All other sizes will be disqualified upon receipt.
3. Do not send original manuscripts. No scores or CDs will be returned. Winning scores and CDs are displayed at the TMTA State Convention and may not be removed.
4. Accuracy in fundamentals should be checked by the teacher before the composition is submitted. Corrections should be made by the student. Other help from the teacher is limited to the acceptable practices used in teaching the elements of composition.
5. The student's name, pen name, age, or other personal information, previous judges' comments, cover sheet, or illustrations may not appear on the manuscripts for any reason. Poems, performance directions, or the student's annotations are accepted.
6. The composition **title** must be centered on **all pages**. The **division** must be in the upper right corner of **all pages**. Page numbers, starting with page 2, should be placed in the upper right corner. All measures must be numbered, either by bar or by system.
7. Division E entries of three or more voices and all Division L entries must be submitted with **four** CDs. All **four CDs must contain** the **title** of the composition and the **division**. **Three CDs must not contain** any personal identification of the composer, copyright holder, teacher, or local association. The **fourth CD must contain** proper identification of the composer, at least, for the TMTA archives. No DVDs or cassette tapes are accepted, only CDs.
8. No entries are accepted through electronic submission (i.e., no Finale files or jpg files as attachments in lieu of hard copy scores, and no mp3 or WAV files accepted in lieu of actual CDs).
9. Local chairs are requested to submit packages of entries organized by division (in the order listed in "Contest Divisions", #3), then alphabetically by last name of composer within each division

**Fees** for this contest submitted by members and nonmembers are absolutely **non-refundable**. Fees are listed at the back of this book.

®It is important that teachers enroll students in Student Affiliate **BEFORE** enrolling them in the Original Composition Contest. Any student of a **TMTA teacher** who participates in the Original Composition Contest prior to enrolling as an SA member is subject to processing fees and fines.

► \$100 nonmember teacher fee to enter one or more students

### Judging and Awards

1. A committee of three qualified judges will use the following criteria for evaluating compositions:
  - a. Observance of the basic skills in music manuscript writing
  - b. Formal organization of material, variety, unity, etc.
  - c. Logical use of rhythmic, harmonic, and melodic ideas
  - d. Creativity and originality
  - e. Idiomatic writing for instrument(s), voice, etc., especially in Division E and L entries
2. Each student will receive an Original Composition Certificate and a rating sheet evaluating the composition. It is hoped that the rating will encourage all students by enabling them to know the strengths and weaknesses of their work.
3. First, second, and third places will be selected in each division, if the judges deem the compositions worthy. These winners will be presented an engraved plaque and a cash award.
4. Honorable mentions may be awarded as merited. Each participant receiving honorable mention will receive an honorable mention certificate in addition to the participation certificate

#### 5. Cash Awards:

Divisions S1-3, S4, S5		Divisions S10-12, E9-12, L1-12	
First place	\$75	First place	\$150
Second place	\$50	Second place	\$100
Third place	\$25	Third place	\$75
Divisions S6-7, S8-9, E 1-4, E 5-8		Divisions SP12, EP12, LP12	
First place	\$100	First place	\$200
Second place	\$75	Second place	\$150
Third place	\$50	Third place	\$100

6. Division E winners are exempt from the performance requirement, although live performances of these works are desirable and should be strongly encouraged. There are no restrictions concerning convention performers of the winning compositions.
7. Division L winners are exempt from the performance requirement. CDs may be submitted to be played throughout the convention at the SA Booth by ensemble winners whose compositions are not performed live, and by third place winners.
8. If a composition requires special electronic equipment, the winning student is responsible for providing the electronic equipment needed for the Composition Winners Recital at the convention.
9. Associations will be notified of winners by **approximately April 15**. In the winner notification letter, all winners will receive instructions concerning details for preparation for convention performance and for submission of photos and photo release forms.
10. All student composers are encouraged to enter their compositions in the MTNA/TMTA Student Composition Contest.