**Arts Category Guidelines | Music Composition**

**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. *A recording of the composition must be included.*

**To portray your original composition, consider the following musical styles and instruments:** 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.

Whether an entry displays formal composition technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses their artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. **Consider structure, melody, rhythm, instruments, lyrics, emotion, etc. to show a clear relation to the theme.**

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 use the “Additional Details” field to *provide a brief description of the tools and methods used* in the creation process, including any generative elements.

**Audio recording (required for all entries):**

* Student composers are not required to perform their composition and may submit an entry performed by an individual, group and/or make use of a sound library generated performance of a composed score.
* Software may be used to produce an audio recording. *Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted.*

**Music score/notation (required 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 (100 words or less).
* If submitting a reflective statement, *it does not replace the required entry artist statement.* The reflective statement must be distinct from the artist statement and must provide a technical musical explanation of how the music was created. Whereas the artist statement emphasizes the Reflections theme, *a reflective statement emphasizes the musical elements in the creative process.*
* 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.

**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 formats: PDF.
* Audio recording must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1,000 MB (1,000 megabytes).
* Accepted file formats: MP3, WAV.
* Submit artwork and student entry form according to your PTA’s instructions.

**All participants must also follow the official rules for participation.**