



Council for Music
Composition

2020 NAFME Student Songwriters Competition Rules and Entry Directions

Application deadline: May 15, 2020 11:59 PM ET

NAfME is seeking original music written by student songwriters for featured performance by the 2020 All-National Honor Modern Band as part of the NAFME National Conference in November in Orlando, Florida. Teachers and students are invited to submit original songs by students for possible inclusion in the concert. Students in elementary school and secondary school are eligible to submit songs.

To be eligible for performance, songs must be submitted according to the guidelines outlined below. One song will be selected for national premier and selected honorable mentions may be eligible for cash awards. Songs submitted that fall outside of the specified guidelines will be adjudicated but will not be eligible for awards or for performance.

Awards and Evaluations

Up to ten (10) selected songwriters may receive cash awards. **All entrants will receive written evaluations of their compositions.**

Age Categories

Elementary/Middle School (K-8) and High School (9-12).

Submission Guidelines

- Students are encouraged to submit an original song from any popular music genre. **Art songs and jazz songs should be submitted to the Student Composers Competition.**
- If a song is picked, it will be performed with the instruments in the Modern Band (Vocals, Guitars, Bass, Keys, Drums).
- Complete submissions shall include an audio recording (no video) and a lyric sheet. Lead sheets are **not required** but are accepted.
- The song recording should be no longer than 5 minutes in duration. Recordings may be of a portion of the song.
- Recording must be made on a cell phone as an audio clip (no video). Fully produced versions of songs may also be submitted, but while those versions will receive constructive feedback by professional educators and songwriters, they will not be considered for performance by the ANHE Modern Band.

Rules and Regulations

- Each entrant must be sponsored by a NAFME member teacher.
- Each applicant may submit a maximum of two songs, but each submission requires a separate application and fee.
- Plagiarism of copyrighted material is illegal. It is the responsibility of the songwriter to assure that music submitted is not copyrighted. If any elements of the song entry are copyrighted, it is the responsibility of the songwriter to secure permission for use of those elements. For more information on copyright, go to www.nafme.org/copyright.

Application Procedure:

- All applications are submitted online through Submittable.
- Click [here](#) to create a new account
- Click [here](#) to start your application
- Fill out all fields on the form, and upload all necessary files, which include:
 - The Student Acknowledgement Form
 - Must be filled out, signed, and uploaded with your application.
 - Lyric Sheet as a PDF
 - The Audio of your song. Midi files are acceptable (from composition software applications).
- Submit payment for the application (\$40) once the application has been completed.

Criteria for the Evaluation of Compositions

Entries will be judged based on their originality, aesthetic quality, and the power of the music and lyrics.

Questions? Please contact Rob Edwards at RobE@nafme.org

(Retain instructions page for reference.)