



2020 NAfME Student Composers Competition Rules and Entry Directions

Application deadline: May 1, 2020 @ 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time

NAfME is seeking original music written by student composers for featured performance in the 2020 Young Composers Concert as part of NAfME National Conference in Orlando, Florida, and the 2020 All National Honor Orchestra performance as part of the All National Honor Ensemble (AHNE) performances at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center. Teachers and students are invited to submit original compositions by students for possible inclusion in the concerts. Students in elementary school, secondary school, college, and graduate school are eligible to submit compositions.

In order to be eligible for performance, compositions must be submitted for the specific instrumentations, as outlined below. Along with a national premiere, winning compositions may be eligible for cash awards. Compositions submitted that fall outside of the instrumentation guidelines will be adjudicated but will not be eligible for awards or for performance.

Awards and Evaluations

Up to ten (10) winning composers may receive cash awards thanks to the generous support of the European American Musical Alliance (Dr. Philip Lasser, president) and the Double R Foundation. **All entrants will receive written evaluations of their compositions.**

Age Categories

Elementary/Middle School (K-8), High School (9-12), and Collegiate (Undergraduate or **full-time** Graduate School).

Competition Categories:

The 2020 Student Composers Competition is open to submissions in three categories. Only compositions written for the listed instrumentation under sections 1 and 2 will be selected for performance.

- 1. Symphony Orchestra:** Orchestral submissions **must fit** standard orchestral orchestration : 2 Flutes (plus optional Piccolo), 2 Oboes, 2 Bb Clarinets, 2 Bassoons, 2 Trumpets, 2-4 Horns, 2 Trombones, 1 Tuba, Timpani, 2 Percussionists (standard orchestral percussion only), and Strings.
- 2. Set chamber instrumentation:**
This year, NAfME calls for submissions composed for the reed quintet:
 - Any combination of the following string instruments: oboe, Bb soprano clarinet, alto saxophone, bass clarinet, and bassoon.
 - These could include (but would not be limited to) duets, trios, and quartets.
- 3. Other instrumentation**
Submissions for other than orchestra and set chamber instrumentation listed above will be eligible for adjudication but will not be eligible for an award or for performance in 2020.

Rules and Regulations

- **Previously published works are not eligible for submission.**
- Compositions must not exceed five (5) minutes in duration.
- Compositions may be for a solo instrument or voice, or for an ensemble of instruments and/or voices.
- Compositions eligible for performance in 2020 must follow the written guidelines above (#1 or #2).
- Each applicant may submit a maximum of two compositions, but each composition requires a separate application and fee.
- Students whose works are selected will be invited to attend the *Young Composer Concert* or the *ANHE Concert*, which are both scheduled to occur during the 2020 National NAfME In-service Conference November 4-8, in Orlando FL and are expected to attend, if possible (specific dates for performances forthcoming).
- Travel, housing, and other expenses are the responsibility of the composer or sponsoring school.
- K-12 applicants must have a faculty sponsor who is a member of NAfME.
- Collegiate applicants must be NAfME Collegiate members in good standing at time of application and at time of performance.
- Students may submit compositions and receive evaluations in consecutive years, but no student can win an award or have a composition selected for performance in any two consecutive years.

- Plagiarism of copyrighted material is illegal. It is the responsibility of the composer to assure that music submitted is not copyrighted. If any elements of the composition entry are copyrighted, it is the responsibility of the composer 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.

- Create a new account at <http://www.submittable.com>
- Go to <https://nafme.submittable.com/submit/155543/2020-nafme-student-composers-competition>
- 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.
 - The Score of your PDF
 - The Audio of your composition. 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

Compositions submitted to the Student Composers Competition are evaluated according to three broad criteria:

(1) Compositional Technique includes the following elements, where applicable:

- Organization of pitch elements (such as melody, harmony, and counterpoint)
- Organization of rhythmic elements
- Formal design
- Accuracy and clarity of notation
- Appropriate writing for instruments and/or voices

(2) Overall Musical Appeal includes the following aspects:

- Stylistic coherence (regardless of the particular style)
- Effective handling of unity/variety and tension/release
- Effective use of dynamics, articulations, and expression marks
- Interaction of all of the elements (atmosphere, mood, direction, and flow of the music)

(3) Originality refers to aspects of the piece that reveal the composer's individual "voice" and distinguish the piece from a musical exercise or a direct imitation of another piece

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

(Retain instructions page for reference.)