



Council for Music
Composition



European American
Musical Alliance

2022 NAFME Student Composers Competition Rules and Entry Directions

Application deadline: April 18, 2022 at 11:59 PM ET

NAfME is seeking original music written by student composers for featured performance the 2022 Young Composers Concert as part of the NAFME National Conference in National Harbor, Maryland, and the 2022 All-National Honor Ensembles (ANHE) performances at the Gaylord National Resort & 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 twelve (12) composers may receive cash awards thanks to the generous support of the European American Musical Alliance. **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 2022 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. Concert Band (ANHE in-person performance):** Concert Band submissions must fit standard band orchestration: Flute I, Flute II, (Piccolo if needed), Oboe I, Oboe II, Bb Clarinet I, Bb Clarinet II, Bb Clarinet III, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon I, Bassoon II, Alto Saxophone I, Alto Saxophone II, Tenor saxophone, Baritone saxophone, Trumpet I, Trumpet II, Trumpet III, Horn I, Horn II (Horns III and IV optional), Trombone I, Trombone II, Trombone III (Bass trombone optional), Euphonium (divisi if needed), Tuba (divisi if needed), Timpani, Percussion I, and Percussion II (for a total of 7 percussionists, including timpani) to be considered for performance at the ANHE concert.
- 2. Set chamber instrumentation (2022 Young Composers Concert):** This year, NAFME calls for submissions composed for voice and piano accompaniment:
 - Selecting any one voice part from the list below with piano accompaniment will meet instrumentation requirements:
 - High voice: Soprano or Tenor
 - Low voice: Alto or Bass
 - Piano accompaniment
- 3. Other instrumentation**

Submissions for ensembles other than band and set chamber instrumentation listed above will be eligible for adjudication but will not be eligible for an award or for performance in 2022.

Rules and Regulations

- **Previously published works are not eligible for submission.**
- Compositions must not exceed five (5) minutes in duration.
- Compositions eligible for performance in 2022 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 ANHE Concert in November 2022 or the Virtual Young Composers Concert in March 2023 (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>.
- 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.
 - The Score as a PDF
 - The Audio of your composition. Midi files are acceptable (from composition software applications).
- Submit payment for the application. Applicants may choose the \$40 suggested application fee or a “pay what you can” option. Funds collected help us support our volunteer adjudicators and ensure a high-quality experience for our student composers.

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 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 Maddie Boyles at Programs@nafme.org.

(Retain instructions page for reference.)