



Council for Music
Composition

2022 NAFME Student Songwriters Competition Rules and Entry Directions

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

NAfME is seeking original music written by student songwriters for featured performance in a virtual concert in March 2023 as part of Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM). Teachers and students are invited to submit original songs by students for possible inclusion in the concert. Students in elementary school, secondary school, college, and graduate school are eligible to submit songs.

To be eligible for performance, songs must be submitted according to the guidelines outlined below. 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 eight (8) songwriters may receive cash prizes and may have their works featured as part of a virtual concert and composer round table discussion. **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).

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.
- 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.

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 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.
 - Lyric Sheet as a PDF
 - The Audio of your song. 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

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

Questions? Please contact Maddie Boyles at Programs@nafme.org.

(Retain instructions page for reference.)