

## ORIGINAL COMPOSITION CONTEST - TMTA/SA

### Purpose:

To promote student creativity and understanding of basic compositional principles. Principles include:

- Accuracy and legibility in notation
- Clarity of design & form
- Rhythmic variety
- Melodic interest
- Harmonic plan
- Texture - consistency & unity of rhythmic, melodic, & harmonic ideas
- Phrasing & articulations

To provide an opportunity for young composers to compete within their grade division and to receive critique on their work. To provide winning composers an opportunity to share their work in performance.

### Eligibility:

Students must hold Student Affiliate membership and pass the TMTA State Theory exam through CCMTA as outlined below: (Please review SA dues and membership rules).

#### Theory Requirements for Original Composition Contest

- A. 1st grade - 70 or better on the first grade test.
- B. 2nd-4th grades - 70 or better on the current grade level, or **ONE** grade below.
- C. 5th-12th grades - must pass the test (70 or better) at a minimum of grade level 4. Such students must advance at least one level higher each successive year and may skip levels until they reach their current grade level.
- D. Post-12th grade - is defined as those not having reached age 27 by the entry **deadline**.
- E. Post-12th grade entrants are exempt from the theory requirement.

### Criteria:

1. Entries may be composed for any medium.
2. Students must enter in their grade level only.
3. Any student winning a first place in any division may not enter that same division the following year.

4. A student may enter only 1 composition in a given division.

There are 12 possible divisions:

Division **S** is for solo compositions with one performer.

Divisions **E and L** are for ensemble compositions.

**E** = 10 or fewer performers.

**L** = 11 or more performers.

5. The entire submitted composition must be the original work of the student.
6. Compositions entered previously may not be re-entered in subsequent years.
7. Compositions may be in one or more movements, but the performance time for an **entire work must not exceed 10 minutes.**
8. Arrangements of pieces and/or the use of themes from a piece are allowed under the following circumstances:
  - A. The original composition that is being made into an arrangement, or from which themes are being used, must be in the public domain.
  - B. The student has permission from the composer and/or publisher to use the original copyrighted composition.
  - C. Please be aware that the students submitting a piece under either of these circumstances are responsible for proving that the original composition falls under one of the above categories. This can be done by simply attaching a paragraph explaining the circumstances when turning in the composition.
9. Compositions must be judged locally.
10. Fees for this contest are non-refundable.

### **Special Instructions:**

1. Manuscripts must be on 8 1/2" X 11" paper.
2. Sharp, legible copy is required. Photocopied manuscripts are acceptable. Manuscripts in all divisions must be either handwritten or printed via a computer. Final copies should not be edited or revised by a teacher or judge.
3. The student's name, pen name, age, or other personal information, previous judges' comments, cover sheet, or illustrations may not appear on the manuscripts for any reason. Poems, performance directions, or the student's annotations will be accepted.
4. The composition title must be centered on **ALL** pages.
5. The Division must be placed in the upper right corner of **ALL** pages.
6. Page numbers, starting with page 2, should be placed in the upper right corner.
7. All measures **MUST** be numbered either by bar (individual measures) or by system (1<sup>st</sup> measure of each line).

8. Division E entries of 3 or more voices and all Division L entries must be submitted with an audio file containing **only the title of the composition and the division.** ONLY **WAV and MP3 files will be accepted** for TMTA entries.

### Local Contest Set Up:

1. The Original Composition Contest is comprised of two tiers of competition--Local and State.
2. Students submit compositions for evaluation at the Local level.
3. Prior to sending their work on to State, students have the opportunity to re-work their composition (if they so desire) after receiving the critique from the local judge.

### State Contest Set up:

1. At the State level, a committee of 3 qualified judges will evaluate the compositions and select 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in each division if they deem the compositions worthy.
2. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in each division are invited to perform at TMTA State convention or provide a substitute performer(s). They may submit a CD to be played at the TMTA convention in the Student Affiliate booth. If unable to perform, winners will still receive their cash award and certificate.
3. Honorable mentions may be awarded as merited.

### Registration:

1. Determine students' division from chart below.

#### **DIVISION S**

Division S1-3	grades 1,2,3
Division S4	grade 4
Division S5	grade 5
Division S6-7	grades 6-7
Division S8-9	grades 8-9
Division S10-12	grades 10-12
Division SP12	post-12th grade

#### **DIVISION E**

Division E1-4	grades 1-4
Division E5-8	grades 5-8
Division E9-12	grades 9-12
Division EP12	post-12th grade

#### **DIVISION L**

Division L1-12	grades 1-12
Division LP12	post-12th grade

2. See CCMTA Yearbook to determine entry fee. Both Local and State fees are included in this amount. Please write 1 check (representing all students entered from your studio) payable to CCMTA and indicate "Original Composition Contest" on the memo line.

3. **FOR LOCAL CONTEST**, teachers please submit the following:

- A. 1 Entry form (please go to the CCMTA website and complete the on-line TMTA/SA Original Composition Local Entry Form and submit as directed). Be sure to list each composition you are submitting from your studio.
- B. 1 **hard copy** of each composition with no personal identification. Be sure you keep the original copy for your records.
- C. Registration fee described above.
- D. Send registration check and compositions to the CCMTA Original Composition Chairman (see CCMTA Yearbook).
- E. Local deadline for entries must be followed. **No exceptions.** (See Yearbook for details).

4. **FOR STATE CONTEST**, teachers please follow these instructions:

- A. Before submission check these items first:
  - 1. Division in upper right corner of each page.
  - 2. Page numbers in upper right corner beginning with page #2.
  - 3. Title centered on each page.
  - 4. Student's name is **NOT** to be on the composition.
- B. Save file as PDF with students' **last name followed by the first initial**. No comma or space between the last name and first initial.  
Examples: AndersonM, SmithS. If two students with the same last name and same first initial enter, then include the middle initial to differentiate between the two. Example: JonesMK and JonesMJ.
- C. To submit the file via email:
  - 1. The subject line should read – TMTA Original Composition.
  - 2. Email the file to the CCMTA Original Composition Chair.

**Awards:**

- 1. At the Local and State level, students receive a critique and a certificate.
- 2. At the State level, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each division receive a cash award and a certificate at the TMTA State Convention in June.
- 3. Cash Awards on the State Level are:
  - A. Divisions S 1-3, S4, S5: First place \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$70, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$40.
  - B. Divisions S 6-7, S8-9, E 1-4, E 5-8: First place \$125, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$90, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$60.
  - C. Divisions S 10-12, E 9-12, L 1-12: First place \$175, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$125, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$90.
  - D. Divisions SP 12, EP 12, LP 12: First place \$210, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$160, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$110.