

WMTA Young Composers Competition

Deadline for receipt of submission: April 1, 2025

Application fee: \$ 22 per student

Awards:

- First Prize: Elementary - \$ 50; Junior - \$ 100--; Senior - \$ 150.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each level will be awarded at the discretion of the judges, but no winner will be declared in a given level if, in the opinion of the judges, there is no entry of sufficient quality.
- Each entrant will receive a certificate of participation and a critique.

ALL WMTA RULES APPLY.

Eligibility: Contestants must have prepared submitted compositions under the guidance of their teacher. Competition is open only to students whose teachers are members of WMTA.

- Levels:**
- Elementary: through the 5th grade
 - Junior: 6th-8th grades
 - Senior: 9th-12th grades

Requirements:

- A student may enter up to two compositions, with a separate entry form and fee for each one. However, each student is eligible to win only one award.
- A first place winner in a given year may not be awarded first, second, or third place in any division the following year. However, that student may still enter the competition and receive judge's comments and an award of "honorable mention".
- Medium: Entries may be composed for any medium not requiring more than 10 performers.
- Length: Compositions may be in one or more movements. Total performance time may not exceed 10 minutes.
- Arrangements: Compositions based on pre-existing pieces (such as theme and variations or arrangements) are allowed if the source is a work in the public domain and if the composition/arrangement constitutes a unique and original rendering of the material. Such compositions must have a statement signed by the student and teacher indicating that the source is in the public domain.
- Works with text: (1) copyrighted text must have a written statement from the copyright holder giving permission to use text (2) text that is in the public domain must have a statement signed by the student and teacher indicating this fact.
- Manuscripts: PDF of legible manuscript written in the student's own hand or produced by the student using notation software. Only the composition title and level should appear on each manuscript. The student's or teacher's name may not appear.
- Digital recording: An audio recording of a live performance or reading of the piece must accompany each submission as a file attached to an email. MIDI recordings, videos, and links to online recordings will not be accepted. The recording should be titled with the work title(s) and level. The student's or teacher's name should not be part of the file name.

Submission instructions:

- All entries must be submitted electronically. Teachers should email PDFs of the entry form and score along with a digital audio recording to keenpeach@starpower.net. The subject line of the email should include “WMTA Young Composers,” along with the teacher’s name.
- Teachers should mail one check with application fees for all the teacher’s students to Janet Peachey, 5306 Belt Rd, NW, Washington DC 20015.
- The application form must be submitted in a separate PDF from the manuscript (but in the same email).
- For multi-movement pieces, all movements must be included in one PDF and one recording.
- Submissions must be anonymous. The student’s and teacher’s names may not appear anywhere on the score or in the file name of the recording.

Chair: Janet Peachey, 202-256-4070, keenpeach@starpower.net

Click [here](#) to access a PDF with a printable application form.