



MUSIC COMPOSITION is the process of creating a new piece of music. The composer (student submitting entry) is a person who expresses their own thoughts and ideas through the use of sound. The student composer may submit an entry performed by an individual or group and/or make use of a sound library generated performance of a composed score. Student composers are not required to perform their composition. Middle school grade divisions require music score/tablatore/notation, either traditional or tablatore.

2017-2018 Theme: Within Reach

Consider the following musical styles and instruments to portray your original composition: A cappella, blues, choral, country, electronic, hip hop, jazz, world music, musical, orchestral, pop, R&B, religious, rock, symphonic/concert band and traditional.

All instruments, sounds, styles and combinations are accepted. Software may be used to produce an audio recording that does not include commercially pre-programmed imported MIDI or other source files. **Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted.**

Whether an entry displays formal composition technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.

Originality:

- Only new and original songs inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the work of one student only.
- Each entry must contain a **title** and include an **artist statement**. In your **artist statement**, tell us about your work and what it means to you.
 - ❖ How does your work relate to the theme?
 - ❖ What is your personal connection to the theme?
 - ❖ What did you use to create your work (e.g. supplies, technology, instrumentation, props, etc.)?
 - ❖ What/Who was your inspiration?
 - ❖ The statement must include at least one sentence, but may not exceed 100 words

An explanation of the origin of the music and/or the significance of the music style might be a useful addition to the artist statement when submitting a music composition that involves traditional, cultural or regional instruments.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.

Presentation: Audio must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size. Videos are not accepted.

Ideas for Audio Quality: Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument(s) or speakers. Turn off all noise making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Record a short test and listen to it. If needed, change the record volume or microphone location. Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

Notation & Score Required for Middle School. Notation software may be used to create a score. Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance. Number each page. **Print on 8.5x11 (one sided only)** or save/scan score as a single PDF.

Packaging:

- Accepted audio file formats include: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC (M4A) and FLAC.
- Label audio file, notation/score (if applicable) and CD/DVD Disc with your State, Arts Category, Grade, Teacher/Room No, Last Name, First Name (Example: PA.DANCE.PRI.SMITH.JOHN)
- Your name should not appear anywhere in your work.
- Submit video, student entry form and consent form in the office by **September 18, 2017**.
- **Only one entry per student per category.**

For any questions please email lawsonpta.reflections1617@gmail.com