



MENC Student Composers Competition Instructions

Those compositions selected will be featured
for performance at Music Education Week in Washington.
June 24-29, 2010, Washington, D.C.

POSTMARK DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15, 2010

MENC is seeking original music of student composers for featured performances during Music Education Week in Washington to be held June 24-29, 2010, in Washington, D.C. Selected compositions will be the best representative works from MENC's six divisions in each of the following levels: elementary/middle school, high school, and undergraduate/graduate school. **The instrumental composition category for this year is for woodwinds, solo or any combination of instruments up to a woodwind quintet and piano.** For inquiries, contact the MENC Special Projects staff at nicoles@menc.org or 800-336-3768.

Rules and Regulations

1. Composition must not exceed five minutes in duration.
2. Composition instrumentation **must** be for solo or any combination of the following instruments: oboe, clarinet, flute, horn, bassoon, and piano. Solo piano compositions are not eligible.
3. Selected compositions will be performed by professional musicians during Music Education Week in Washington, June 24-29, 2010. Student composers will be invited to attend the performance. Travel, housing, and other expenses are the responsibility of the composer or sponsoring school.
4. 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.menc.org/copyright.
5. Applicant must have a faculty sponsor who is a member of MENC, unless applicant is an MENC collegiate member.
6. **A musical score, audio recording (live or MIDI), composer's music resumé, and a \$25.00 entry fee must accompany a completed entry form.** A student may submit more than one composition provided a separate entry fee, recording, musical score, and entry form accompany each submission. Students may collaborate on a composition if desired. The entry fee is per composition and not per student. (The \$25 entry fee must be remitted in U.S. funds only by credit card or check made payable to MENC. School vouchers, purchase orders, and cash will **NOT** be accepted.)
7. Submissions must be postmarked to MENC no later than February 15, 2010.

Criteria for the Evaluation of Compositions

The quality of the compositions is the primary criterion for selection for the Student Composers Competition, but MENC also attempts to represent all of the association's divisions and age categories. 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 of 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.

(Retain instructions page for reference.)