

COMPOSERS TODAY POLICY

Effective as of 2005

I. TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

1. Active, provisional, student and Cal Plan teacher members may register students or themselves for all programs available through CT.
2. Any MTAC member regardless of training and/or experience in composition may participate in the Program.
3. The primary teacher is one who personally teaches a student on a regular basis for the majority of lessons.
4. Teachers may enter students for whom they serve as the primary teacher or as their composition teacher. If a teacher enters students outside of this policy, all registered students of that teacher may be disqualified.

II. STUDENT PARTICIPATION

1. A CT student must be studying with an MTAC teacher in good standing.
2. Participation and eligibilities in CT will not be interrupted if a student changes teachers before registration, providing study continues with an MTAC teacher. The student's composition will be evaluated at the branch of the new teacher. The names of both teachers will be listed if the student is selected for a Convention program during the year of the change.

III. REGISTRATION

1. All Composers Today Fees are nonrefundable.
2. Teachers must complete their registration on time.
3. There is no late registration. Late entries for any of the CT programs cannot be accepted.

IV. GENERAL POLICIES

1. If there are questions regarding a student's evaluation, the line of responsibility is as follows:
 - a) Branch Chair...if needed, the Branch Chair will refer to the
 - b) Adjudicator Chair...if needed, the Adjudicator Chair will act as mediator, directly speak to the evaluator, and refer the problem to the
 - c) CT Council, State Coordinator
2. It is unethical for either teacher or Chair to question an evaluator's decision by any means other than outlined in Policy IV-1. Any deviation from this procedure will be reviewed by the CT Council.
3. A *Conflict Resolution Committee* will mediate all written, dated documented complaints about any aspect of Composers Today that are submitted to the CT Council at least 5 days before the Council Meeting at the Annual Convention. This committee shall include the CT Coordinator, Adjudicator

Chair, State Contest Chair, YCG Chair, and any advisors attending the annual CT meeting. Items that cannot be resolved will be referred to the State Board.

4. All instrumentalists and vocalists must use the most current CT syllabi available.
5. A graduating High School senior who submits a different manuscript into the CT program for three years, from 9th to 12th grade, including their Senior year and who is recognized with either a performance in the CT Convention Symposium or the CT State Contest is eligible for a senior award.
6. Previous entries may be improved and re-entered another year. Winning compositions cannot be re-entered in the State Contest but they may be re-entered in the Evaluations or YCG.
7. Electronic recorded music may be performed at the convention provided there is **at least one person** performing **live** along with the recorded music.
8. Video tapes may be played at the convention as a substitute for a live performance of 6, or more performers. **The composer must be present** to introduce his/her video and assume all costs to have it played. All YCG performances are live only.
9. Students and their families who must rent equipment for their performance are entirely responsible for signing for the delivery, etc. MTAC teachers, CT Council, and State Office staff cannot assume any responsibility.
10. Convention performances may be performed by the composer or another musician.

V. EVALUATIONS: General Information

1. The evaluations are for ages 5 and older and open to all levels of experience.
2. Each evaluation entry is placed in a category that corresponds to the student's level of experience and musical knowledge (or in the case of teacher entries, the intent of the composition, Teaching Piece or Open Category).
3. Students do not have to be enrolled in the Certificate of Merit Program.
4. The Branch Chair will provide the members with information and deadline dates. Instructions, fee schedule, current forms for registration, and information for teachers and parents are available on the MTAC website. Click on Composers Today.
5. Teachers must fill out the evaluation forms completely and correctly.
6. Branches with 10 or more compositions must not send their compositions to the Regional Chair. The Adjudicator Chair will assign Evaluators to the branch and the Branch Chair must follow the directions for "Branches with 10 or more compositions".
7. Branches with 9 or less compositions must send them to their Regional Chair. They will not receive evaluators for their branch from the Adjudicator Chair. They must follow the directions for "Branches with 9 or less compositions".

8. Branch Chairs may not get their own evaluators. Only those contracted by the Adjudicator Chair are eligible to evaluate.
9. Regional Chairs may only accept compositions from Branches with less than 10 compositions.
10. Branch evaluators shall not be asked to complete any paperwork other than official CT forms.
11. Evaluators shall be paid solely through the CT contract and under the current fee schedule with no further compensation.
11. Evaluators will not discuss students' compositions with teachers or parents.

VI. BRANCH EVALUATIONS: Manuscripts, Computers, Electronic Music

1. Compositions must be original unpublished works.
2. Manuscripts **must be done by the composer**, written by hand or in the form of a computer printout. If done by hand it must be notated in black ink or dark pencil. Computer manuscripts must be generated by the composer using the step entry method or through midi entry and editing.

Exception: Categories 5 and 6 in the Evaluations and Divisions 7 and 8 for the State Contest may engage copyists or computer notation experts as needed.

3. Clear photocopies of the original are submitted to the CT program.
4. A composer can use new music technology to create music without the assistance of teachers, parents, or professionals. A composer can receive instruction in how to use a computer program. But, they must do the actual notation of the entry, the transposition, arrangement, formatting, etc. of the creative work themselves (see exception above).
5. Electronically generated sound waves may come from a pre-created sound bank or may be created by the composer. The composer may pre-record the parts of such a work and save to a memory disk/CD. For performance the composer may play along with this disk/CD on an electronic or acoustic instrument. For such music the composer should list on the composition both the hardware and software used.
6. Any number of compositions may be submitted by any student or teacher, but each must be a separate entry with a separate entry fee. There will only be one registration fee. If a group of pieces are written as a set or suite, it may be entered as one entry. If borrowed melodies or themes are used, the sources must be given.
7. The composition may be for any instrument, voice, electronic sound, ensemble or a multimedia entry such as music/poetry, music/art, music/electronic sound, and music/dance.

VII. EVALUATORS

1. The Adjudicator Chair assigns evaluators for both the Evaluations and State Contest.

2. Under normal circumstances, an Evaluator will not judge the Evaluations and the State Contest in the same year. However, if an emergency arises and the evaluator is asked to do both, every effort will be taken to see that he/she does not judge the same compositions or levels.
3. YCG judges should have judged evaluations and/or State Contest for the experience and understanding of the program, but should only judge YCG in a given year.
4. The decision of the evaluators is final.
5. Evaluators receive written instructions on how to evaluate each program.

VIII. SYMPOSIUM

1. The Symposium is a performance opportunity for composers who submit an original composition in the Evaluation that meets a minimum of “8” for the combined ratings from the 2 judges. Those selected perform their compositions and provide comments at one of several CT Symposium Recitals at the annual MTAC State Convention.
2. Teachers must postmark the Symposium Applications by April 15th. These applications do not go through the branch chair but are sent in by each individual teacher to the Symposium Chair.
3. Composers (students or teachers) may only play on one CT program at convention each year. Either the Symposium OR the State Contest Winners recital, although application may be made to both.
4. All solo compositions must be memorized for convention performance. Exceptions must be cleared through the Symposium Chair. Ensemble compositions and adults are exempt from memorizing.
5. Compositions are selected on the basis of the ratings given by the evaluators, performance on the tape sent to the Symposium Chair, correct filling out of the form, programming considerations i.e. category, level, and time availability.
6. Maximum performance time including comments is 5 minutes.
7. Students may only play one composition at the Symposium even if more than one composition meets all the requirements. The student may pick which composition they would like to perform. Two or more pieces that are part of a suite of pieces (including movements of a sonata/sonatina) can be performed on one program provided that the total performance time (including the comments) does not exceed 5 minutes.
8. Teachers, students and parents can check the MTAC website for a list of performers. Click on “convention”. Symposium performers are listed after CM performers.
9. Decisions of the committee are final.

IX. STATE COMPOSITION CONTEST

1. The State Contest is open to all ages. Winners receive cash awards and certificates at the annual State Convention.

2. There are six student divisions which are governed by age. Proof of birthdate must accompany the application for Divisions 1-5. There are also two teacher divisions.
3. The same policies for the Evaluations (Section VI) apply to the State Contest. You do not have to enter the Evaluations to be in the State Contest.
4. Applicants must sign a "Performance Requirement Agreement" which states the winners must perform (or have someone perform) their composition at the State Contest Winners Recital to receive their cash award.
5. Once a composer wins first prize for his category, he is ineligible to win it again. (see #6 Mozart Award).
6. Young Mozart Award is for those students who have won 1st place in their age division and are not old enough for the next division. They may enter the same division and compete for a special award. Only those having won 1st place in their division are eligible for the Young Mozart Award
7. Honorable Mentions may play on the State Contest Winners recital, if time allows, and receive a certificate of performance. They are not eligible for the Travel or Accompanists Scholarships since they do not receive a cash award and are not required to play.
8. State Contest Awards are as follows:

Division	1st Place	2nd Place
I	\$80.00	\$50.00
II	\$100.00	\$60.00
III	\$120.00	\$75.00
IV	\$140.00	\$90.00
V	\$160.00	\$100.00
VI	\$180.00	\$115.00
VII	\$210.00	\$130.00
VIII	\$230.00	\$160.00

X. YOUNG COMPOSERS GUILD

1. The student must be in high school grades 10, 11, or 12 or at the collegiate level to be eligible to apply for membership.
2. College students must have studied during their high school years with an active MTAC teacher.
3. The students must have participated in the CT program and performed at the convention in a Symposium or State Contest Winners recital.
4. The student is responsible for filling out the YCG application and meeting all the requirements.
5. New applicants who are selected by the evaluators will be granted YCG membership only after attendance and performance at the annual YCG Concert at Convention.

6. An Attendance and Performance confirmation must be signed for convention performance. Selected YCG members must attend, perform and make arrangements for their live performance.
7. The YCG Chair will provide members with deadline dates, a fee schedule, and new forms. Information is also on the MTAC website.
8. The YCG judges are selected by the YCG State Chair in cooperation with the Adjudicator Chair.

THE COMPOSERS TODAY POLICY IS DESIGNED TO HELP THE CT COUNCIL AND THE BRANCH CHAIRS CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF EACH OFFICE AND TO ESTABLISH UNIFORMITY THROUGHOUT THE STATE.