

STATE COMPOSITION CONTEST

General Information and Requirements for Entry

The State Composition Contest is open to all ages. Winners receive cash awards and certificates and their compositions are performed on the Composition Winners Recital at the State Convention. There are six student divisions in the contest that are governed by age. Proof of birthdate must accompany the State Contest Application form for Divisions 1 through 5. There are two teacher divisions. The following outline will clarify the divisions by age:

Division	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ages	Up to 7	8-9	10-11	12-14	15-18	19 and up	Teacher: Teaching Piece	Advanced Work

Registration

Follow the Instructions for registration, fill in the [State Contest Registration Form](#), and use the [State Contest Fee Schedule](#) to figure out fees.

Compositions

Compositions must be original unpublished works. A student or teacher may submit any number of compositions, but each must be a separate entry with a separate entry fee. Previous entries may be improved and re-entered another year. If borrowed melodies or themes are used, the sources must be given. The composition may be for any instrument, voice, electronic sound, ensemble, or a multimedia entry such as music and poetry, music and art, music and electronic sound, music and dance, and music and film. If music is written for film, you must provide a cue sheet, with separate copies of each cue (score segments). If a group of pieces are written as a set or suite, it may be entered as one entry. Composition scores **must be done by the composer**. **Exception:** Division 7 and 8 may engage copyists or computer notation experts as needed.

The Manuscript

The composition score may be written by hand or in the form of a computer printout.

By Hand: The composer must notate the manuscript in black ink, or dark pencil.

Computer Printout: The composer must generate the manuscript by using the step entry method or through midi entry and editing. (Exception – see above)

Two clear **photocopies of the original** are then submitted to the CT program.

Program Notes:

Comment about the piece on a Title Page in half a page or less. Attach a copy on each manuscript. Comments should be typed or hand written neatly.

Electronic Music

The composer who learns new music technology and can use this technology to create music without the assistance of teachers, parents, or professionals will be allowed to enter these compositions for judging in all the Composers Today Programs.

Evaluators

Adjudicators will evaluate each manuscript. Decision of the adjudicators is final. Evaluation of the composition will be based upon originality of musical ideas, quality of structure, good use of melodic, harmonic and rhythmic materials, accuracy of correct editing, neatness of score and a suitable title.

CONVENTION PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT: If you are a winner you must perform (or have someone perform) your composition at the annual MTAC convention to receive your cash award. Winners may be posted on the MTAC website by May 1st.

STATE CONTEST REGISTRATION FORMTeachers: **March 30th** Actual deadline to Branch Chair

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT: If you are a winner you must perform (or have someone perform) your composition to receive your cash award. Fill out and sign the "Performance Agreement".

1. To determine divisions refer to State Contest Fee Schedule.
2. On the front page of each manuscript show the title, pen name (not real name) of the composer, division, age and school grade. If over 18, put adult. Number the measures, and make two clear photocopies. All manuscripts must be done completely by the composer, whether by hand or computer. (Teacher please verify and initial here _____) Exception: Division 7 and 8 may engage copyists or computer notation experts as needed.
3. Complete the top of the **State Contest Adjudicator Comment sheet** and **staple** one to each of the manuscripts.
4. Send (**NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED**) both copies of **manuscript, TWO identical labeled tapes/CD's per composition** rubber banded together, this **form, verification of birth date** (for divisions 1-5), and a **check** for all applicants to your Branch Chair. Include **self-addressed, stamped (not metered) envelope** for the return of manuscripts. **Tapes/CD's are recommended** for all entries, *required* for advanced pieces, ensemble or electronic entries, film score, or if using unusual notation. **Tapes/CD's will not be returned. If yours is the only entry from your branch, you may send it directly to the State Contest Chair.** Include the **State Contest Summary Sheet** and Branch check (no personal checks please). Notify your branch chair (or President, if no chair) that you are doing so. It will not be necessary for you to pay a Branch fee if you send the entry yourself.

Students eligible for a **Senior Medallion** must have entered a different Composition for 3 High School years including the Senior year and had their composition performed at convention in the Symposium or Contest Winners recital at least once during the high school years. On the second page of this registration form put the student's name, grade, composition titles and which years they performed at Convention.

Composer's Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Optional Fax (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

*Pen Name _____ Age as of March 30 _____

Birth date (include proof) _____ Grade _____ Division _____ #Measures _____ Sr. Med _____
Yes/No

Title _____

Instrument(s) _____

Check if applicable: Film Score Electronic Music Branch Fee (to be retained by branch) \$ _____Exact Performance length of piece including comments _____ (Limit 5 minutes) Total fees enclosed \$ _____

**Primary Teacher _____ Phone (_____) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

***Secondary Teacher(s) (if any) _____

MTAC Branch _____

Branch Chair _____ Phone (_____) _____

*Use pen name, not real name on manuscript, tapes, and judges comment sheet.

**The Primary Teacher is the MTAC teacher that instructed and oversaw the majority of the entrant's compositional work.

***The Secondary Teacher(s) is any MTAC teacher that provided additional support in the completion of the composition.

Media and Instruments Used for Composition:

List instruments, voice, poetry, dance, *electronic sound, art, etc. used in creating your composition and equipment necessary for the performance of your works.

*Electronically generated sound waves may come from a pre-created sound bank or may be created by the composer from basic sound waves. Generic names such as “Ice Rain” or “Fantasie” are computer names for groups of generated sounds that cannot be played on specific acoustic instruments. The composer may prerecord the parts of such a work and save it to a memory disk. For performance the composer must play along with this disk on a synthesizer or an acoustic instrument.

STATE CONTEST PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT

I agree that if I win in the State Contest, I must perform, and/or provide performers, for the MTAC annual State Convention, in order to receive my cash award. I understand that my performance time will be limited to 5 minutes.

Visit www.mtac.org for information on dates and location of performance.

Composer’s Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (Divisions 1-5) _____ Date _____

Teacher Signature _____ Date _____

If you must rent special equipment or instruments for your performance you are entirely responsible for the delivery and pick up. You are responsible for making all arrangements. MTAC members and staff cannot sign for delivery or pickup.

Senior Medallion Information: (see “General Information” for requirements). List the names of the 3 compositions and the year (9th-12th). One year must be the senior year (grade 12).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Convention Performance: Give year and CT Recital (Symposium or State Contest)

Year: _____ Recital _____ Title _____

Fill in this form, sign, send with your composition, and make a copy for your records

STATE CONTEST FEE SCHEDULE

Registration fees are for all divisions, and are based on 64 measures, or less. For entries over 64 measures, add \$5.00 for each additional 32 measures or portion thereof.

Solo Piece	\$25.00
Ensemble for 2 parts	\$30.00
Ensemble for 3-4 parts	\$35.00
Ensemble for 5-8 parts	\$40.00
Ensemble for 9-12 parts	\$45.00
Ensemble for 13, or more, parts	\$50.00
Film Score	\$55.00

The following ages are as of March 30. Proof of birth date must accompany the State Contest Application for those in divisions 1-5.

- Division 1 — ages up to 7
- Division 2 — ages 8 and 9
- Division 3 — ages 10 and 11
- Division 4 — ages 12 through 14
- Division 5 — ages 15 through 18
- Division 6 — ages 19 and up
- Division 7 — teacher (teaching composition)
- Division 8 — teacher (any advanced work)

Branch Fees may be collected by your branch for expenses. Contact your Teacher, CT Branch Chair or Branch President for correct fees.

STATE CONTEST ADJUDICATOR COMMENT SHEET

(Make a copy of this sheet and staple to composition)

Composition Title _____

Composer's Pen Name _____ Division _____

Do Not use real name

Check if applicable

Age _____ School Grade _____ # measures _____ Film Score Electronic

Computer Program Used (if applicable) _____

Judge Signature _____ Date _____

Please print your name here: _____

Please make a copy of this sheet and keep in case compositions are lost and we need your comments.

STATE CONTEST REMINDER SHEET

All entries are due to the Branch Chair by **March 30th** or before (**not postmarked**). **No late entries can be accepted.** Mail your entries to your Branch Chair. If there is only one entry from your Branch send directly to the State Contest Chair. **Please send packages with NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED.**

Remember to include:

- Completed Application Form and signed “Performance Requirement Agreement”
- Only one copy of the composer’s birth certificate (divisions 1-5).
- One check made payable to your branch for all entry fees.
- One self-addressed adequately stamped 9x12 mailing envelope.
(Tapes/CD’s/ DVD’s will NOT be returned.)
- Two copies of the manuscript with measures numbered.
(**NO ORIGINALS. NO REAL NAME** may appear on the manuscript.)
- Attach to each manuscript a copy of the program notes.
- Attach to each manuscript the completed **Adjudicator Comment Sheet.**
(**USE PEN NAME ONLY.**)
- Two identical tapes/CD’s/DVD’s** of each composition rubber banded together for each entry.
(**Tapes/CD’s/DVD’s are required** for all entries.)
(**Tapes/CD’s/ DVD’s will not be returned.**)
Tapes/CD’s/ DVD’s should be:
 - Labeled only with the name of the entry, pen name of the composer, age, and division.
 - Only one entry on a tape/CD/DVD will be accepted. **DO NOT put all entries from one composer** on the same tape.
 - DO NOT announce the real name of the composer on the tape.
 - Be sure the only music on the tape is the contest entry piece.
- **5 minutes time limit** – longer compositions may be submitted for judging, but they will have to be limited to 5 minutes for Convention performance.
- Look for the State Contest Winners names to be posted by May 1st on the MTAC website!

please Type

Year _____

STATE CONTEST BRANCH SUMMARY

Due postmarked April 3 to State Contest Chair

Branch: _____

Branch Chair: _____ Phone: _____

Optional: FAX _____ Email: _____

Address _____

List Teachers alphabetically	No. of entries	No. of Measures	Reg. Fee	Added Fee	Total fees
1			\$	\$	\$
2			\$	\$	\$
3			\$	\$	\$
4			\$	\$	\$
5			\$	\$	\$
6			\$	\$	\$
7			\$	\$	\$
8			\$	\$	\$
9			\$	\$	\$
10			\$	\$	\$
Totals			\$	\$	\$

CT Branch Chair:

Send a copy of this Branch Summary to the State Contest Chair along with all the entries from your branch. Include:

1. The compositions with measures numbered and attached forms.
2. Cassette tapes/CD's, (**2 per entry**). Use rubber bands, no masking tape.
3. **One branch check** (no personal checks) for total registration fees.
4. A stamped, self-addressed 9"x12" mailer for return of compositions (early June).

For teachers where there is no CT Chair for the Branch:

Send entries to the **Branch President**, who will in turn assume the duties of a CT Branch Chair, including filling out the Branch Summary form and obtaining a Branch check for forwarding along to the State Contest Chair.

Mail to: CT State Contest Chair
See CT Council Directory for name and address