

NHMEA Composition Contest Guidelines

Students in NHMEA participating school districts and collegiate NHMEA members are invited to submit original compositions to the NHMEA Composition Contest. All submissions will be reviewed and adjudicated by 2 professional composers who will provide written feedback to each student composer. Solo or ensemble compositions of any length (up to 5 minutes), style, and genre are welcome.

Winning compositions at each grade level will be considered for performance at the NHMEA All-Member Meeting on Friday, April 3rd, 2020 at the DoubleTree Hotel & Conference Center in Manchester NH.

Age Categories

- Grade K-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12
- Collegiate (NHMEA members only)

Timeline

- February 1, 2020- Deadline for submitting application form, registration fee, and scores and/or recordings.
- March 13, 2020- Directors receive adjudicator feedback and contest winners are notified.
- April 3, 2020- Winners will be recognized at NHMEA Spring All-Member Meeting

Rules

- All materials must be received by February 1, 2020
- A registration fee of \$15/composition for grades K-8 and \$25 for grades 9-collegiate is required.
- School Participation Fees must be paid and collegiate composers must be NHMEA members.
- Compositions for students in grades K-8 must not exceed 3 minutes. Compositions for students in grades 9-Collegiate must not exceed 5 minutes.
- When possible, a PDF of a score and an audio recording should be submitted.
- If a composition is selected for performance, NHMEA will assist in the recruitment of performers for small ensemble pieces if a winning student's school cannot provide one, but NHMEA cannot guarantee a performance. Winning students composing for larger ensembles are encouraged to arrange for a live or recorded video performance. Winning composers are encouraged to provide performers whenever possible.
- Students whose works are selected for performance will be expected to attend the All-Member Meeting.

Evaluation Criteria

In general, compositions will be judged using criteria established by NYSSMA and NAFME.

Application Procedure

1. Remove all info identifying student and school from the score and/or recording.
2. By February 1, 2020, send an email to compositions@nhmea.org. The subject line must contain the Student Name and School. In the body of the email, please include the Student Name, Title of Composition, Director's Name, School, and Directors Phone and preferred Email, and program notes (if applicable). Directors submitting multiple compositions should send multiple emails.
3. Attached to the email should be an anonymized pdf of the score and/or a recording. Both formats are encouraged. Each file must be labeled with the title of the composition.
4. Composers are encouraged (but not required) to include program notes for their composition.
5. Send one check payable to NHMEA along with the School Registration Form to Mike Seckla, Hudson Memorial School, 1 Memorial Drive, Hudson NH, 03051. Registration form is available to print at nhmea.org on the composition contest page, under Student Events.