

# LMTA Composition Competition Rules

**Deadline:** Entries us be received, via email, by 5:00 pm on Monday, September 15, 2025.  
Late entries will not be accepted.

**Chairman:** Ellene Owens [msellenesmusic@gmail.com](mailto:msellenesmusic@gmail.com)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Students must be currently studying with an LMTA teacher.
2. Entries may be composed for any medium.
3. A student may enter only one composition in his/her designated division.
4. Compositions entered previously may not be re-entered in subsequent years.
5. Composition may be in on or more movements, but the performance time for an entire work must not exceed 8 minutes.

## CONTEST DIVISIONS (Age on January 1, 2026)

- Lower Elementary Ages 5 – 7
- Upper Elementary Ages 8 – 10
- Junior Ages 11 – 14
- Senior Ages 15 – 18

## SUBMISSIONS

Entrants or teachers should submit a PDF score and an M4A or MP3 recording of the composition to the chairman by 5pm on the day of the deadline. Receipt of email entries will be acknowledged within 24 hours. One entry per email.

- Please type the contest division on the subject line.
- Attach the PDF and audio file to the email.
- In the body of the email please provide the following;
  - Teacher's name
  - Teacher's email address (for return of the judge's critiques)
  - Student's name & age on January 1, 2026
- Completed application form may be scanned & sent with the email entry or may be sent along with the entry fee vis the postal service.
- Teachers must send **one** check for all entries to the composition chair (postmarked by deadline)

## GENERAL REMINDERS

- Accuracy in music fundamentals should be checked by the teacher before the composition is submitted, and corrections should be made by the students. Other help from the teacher is limited to the teaching of desirable rules of composition.
- The student's name, age, teacher's name, or other personal information may not appear on the manuscript. Poems, performance directions, or the student's annotations will be accepted. Artwork need not be submitted as the judge will not evaluate this.
- Page numbers and the composition title should appear in the upper right corner for each page of the manuscript. Measures should be numbered by bar or by system. Only copies free of extra markings should be submitted.

## JUDGING AND AWARDS

The following criteria will be used for evaluating compositions:

- Creativity
- Originality
- Basic music-writing skills
  - Manuscripts should show student's understanding of time signature, key signature, note values, rests, and other compositional elements such as the use of dynamics and tempo markings.
- Organization of Material
  - The composition should utilize clear melodic and rhythmic ideas and show an understanding of phrases and cadences and a clear sense of form.
- Idiomatic writing
  - The student should show an understanding of the instrument for which he/she is writing.

Each student will receive an Original Composition Certificate and a rating sheet evaluating his/her composition.

First and second places will be selected in each division, if the judge deems the compositions worthy, and these students will be invited to have their piece performed at the LMTA conference held in October. They will also receive a cash award of \$50.00 and \$25.00 respectively.

Honorable Mentions may be awarded as merited.

## Entry Fees (Nonrefundable)

Entry fee is **\$25.00 per student**. The completed form and fee must accompany each entry. Student fees must be submitted as a single check from the teacher's account. Mail the entry fee to the composition chair by postmark deadline.