

2024-25 Original Composition Program: High School

- Purpose:** The purpose of the event is to promote and encourage student composition
- Eligibility:** Open to Grades 9-12 individual students of PMEA members
- Requirements:** An original composition for at least a small ensemble. This could be a woodwind or brass quintet, a string quartet, a percussion ensemble (4 – 6 parts) or four-part choral (SATB) with or without piano accompaniment (with original text or borrowed text (credit must be given)).
**Previous composition awardees may not submit a composition in the same genre in which they were recognized, however a composition in a different genre may be submitted.*

Program Rules and Procedures:

1. The sponsoring teacher must be a PMEA member.
2. Entries must be unpublished original compositions. No transcriptions or arrangements will be eligible.
3. Compositions should be between four and six minutes in length.
4. The purpose of the program is to encourage and promote student composition. Therefore, the composition must be conceived and constructed solely by the composer.
5. Compositions must be submitted with a full score in PDF format and a recorded performance or digital audio file.
6. Be sure that your name is **NOT** listed anywhere on the score or in the audio file.
7. All entries must be received by **11:59 p.m. December 4, 2024**. Entries received after the deadline will not be considered.
8. All rights, including copyrighting, remain with the composer.
9. Compositions submitted must not be published (printed or available publicly on streaming services) and must have not won any other competitions.
10. The panel of judges will include qualified university composition faculty, university music education faculty and/or music educators. Their decisions will be final, with the right to withhold the award in the event that no entry is judged to be worthy of winning.
11. A composer may submit multiple compositions; however each one must be written for a different ensemble/genre. A separate application is required for each composition submitted.
12. The top compositions will be featured during the 2025 PMEA Annual In-service Conference, April 10-12 at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in the Poconos. If your composition is selected, you may be asked to submit a video recording to be played during the composition program session.

Evaluation criteria:

- Creative use of the elements of music
- Appropriate use of voice and/or instruments (range/playability, texture, tone color, text if applicable)
- Compositional technique and development
- Presentation (correct musical notation)

Results:

The top composition(s) will be recognized and will have their pieces featured during the 2025 PMEA Annual In-service Conference. All applicants will receive feedback on their compositions.

Entry Fee: \$15

Deadline: December 4, 2024

[Applications](#) will be accepted from Monday, September 16 until 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4.

Questions: Please email: info@pmea.net