

NJMEA Announces the 3rd Annual

2010-11 NJMEA Young Composers Competition

The New Jersey Music Educators Association is proud to announce our second annual **Young Composers Competition**. This competition is open to high school students in 9-12th grade, including seniors graduating in June 2011.

Categories for Submissions

Composers may submit works in the following categories. **All works must be 100% original. No arrangements or transcriptions will be accepted.**

Large Band or Wind Ensemble
Chamber Orchestra with optional Winds/Brass/Percussion
Chamber Ensemble - Instrumental Only
Small or Large Vocal Ensemble
Small or Large Jazz Combo/Ensemble

Instrumentations

For all Large Band or Wind Ensemble submissions, the following instrumentation is to be used. Composers may use less than this instrumentation, but for performance purposes, no more than this recommended list may be used:

Piccolo (opt.)	Trumpet/Cornet 1, 2, 3
Flute 1, 2	Horn in F 1, 2, 3, 4
Oboe 1, 2	Trombone 1, 2 (opt. Bass Trombone)
B-flat Clarinet 1, 2, 3	Baritone Horn/Euphonium
Bass Clarinet	Tuba
Bassoon 1, 2	Timpani
Alto Saxophone 1, 2	Piano (opt.)
Tenor Saxophone	String Bass (opt.)
Baritone Saxophone	Aux. Percussion (up to 5 players)

For Chamber Orchestra with Optional Winds/Brass/Percussion submissions, any up to the maximum of the following instrumentation should be considered:

Piccolo (opt.)	Trombone 1, 2 (opt. Bass Trombone)
Flute 1, 2	Timpani
Oboe 1, 2	Piano (opt.)
B-flat Clarinet 1, 2	Aux. Percussion (up to 3 players)
Bassoon 1, 2	Violin I
Alto Saxophone 1, 2	Violin II
Trumpet/Cornet 1, 2	Viola
Horn in F 1, 2, 3, 4	Cello
	Double Bass

Chamber Ensemble Submissions

For students submitting works in the Chamber Ensemble - Instrumental category, the maximum number of players **must not exceed 10. No solo works will be considered for eligibility.** Any choice of instrumentation is available within the accessibility of possible performance.

Vocal Submissions

All vocal submissions must be within the traditional ranges of standard choir configuration (SATB). Any combination of voices (ex. SAB, SSA) may be used, however, a maximum combination of SSAATTBB is recommended.

Jazz Combo/Ensemble Submissions

Students submitting works in the Jazz Combo/Ensemble category must employ a minimum of 4 players (solo + rhythm section) to be eligible. **It is suggested that the majority of the composition be written rather than improvised.** Larger Jazz Ensemble works may contain up to and including the following instrumentation:

Alto Saxophone 1, 2	Piano/Keyboard
Tenor Saxophone 1, 2	Guitar
Baritone Saxophone	Electric or String Bass
Trumpet/Cornet 1, 2, 3, 4	Drum Set
Trombone 1, 2, 3, 4	Optional Percussion (up to 2 players)

Competition Guidelines

1. Students may submit multiple selections in each category. However, a **\$20 application fee must be accompanied with each selection.** Each entry must be accompanied with a separate completed application form and entry fee in order to be considered for eligibility.
2. **All compositions must have a title or opus number, and all names must be omitted from the score and CD** so all submissions may be judged anonymously.
3. Students must include a brief program note describing the composer's intention of the work.
4. All scores must be submitted in printed copies using a standard notation program, such as Sibelius or Finale. No handwritten scores will be considered for entry.
5. All measures must be numbered in the score.
6. Students will submit their scores with a CD that includes an audio recording of their composition, either live or midi format, and a PDF (digital copy) version of their score and program note. Submissions without recordings will not be considered for entry.
7. While the applicant will retain ownership of their submission, all submissions will be kept by the NJMEA. No materials will be returned to students. NJMEA reserves the right to use student submissions for publicity and/or display.
8. Submissions must be no longer than **7 minutes in length and within the difficulty range of Grades 2-4.**

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation of all submissions will be received by NJMEA approved Competition Judges. This panel will judge all works according to the following guidelines:

Originality: Demonstrating a personal/unique style showing individual creativity.

Compositional Technique: Must have identifiable form, structure, and development. Correct usage of musical notation and score markings.

Accessibility: Must be playable by student ensembles on limited rehearsals.

Compositional Maturity: Knowledge of medium, effective use of instruments/voices, and look of professionalism in score and recording.

Overall Appeal: Must be innovative, imaginative, and enjoyable.

Selections that progress into the final round will be considered for a judging session by a professional composer who will choose the winning selections. Selections that progress into the final round may also receive comments and critique by this judge, and will receive a rating of Superior, Excellent, or Commendable. All decisions made by the judges are final.

NJMEA reserves the right to choose no winner in any category based upon the quality of submission and availability of performers.

Suggestions for Students and Teachers

- Remember that the submission must be able to be played by a student ensemble on limited rehearsal time. Make sure to adhere to the grade level and length specifications listed in the guidelines.
- Remember, neatness counts! An excellent piece will lose credibility if the score is sloppy or shows careless errors.
- Consider all aspects of a good piece when writing: dynamics, articulation, variety of melodic and harmonic ideas, orchestration and timbre, etc.
- Above all, this piece should be personal and meaningful to you. You must consider your creative ideas above anything else combined with your musical knowledge.

2010-11 NJMEA Young Composer's Competition
Application Form

Please send completed form, entry fee, score, and recording to:

Andrew Lesser, NJMEA
215 East Camden Avenue
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Postmark no later than November 12th, 2010
Finalists will be notified by January 17th, 2011

Personal Information

1. Student Composer's Name _____ Grade _____
2. Home Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
3. Student Home Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____
4. Name of School _____
5. Teacher Name _____
6. School Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
7. School Phone Number (____) _____ Teacher E-mail _____
8. Teacher MENC ID Number _____

Composition Information

1. Composition Title/Opus Number _____
2. Category of Submission (Check One)
 - Large Band or Wind Ensemble
 - Chamber Orchestra with optional Winds/Brass/Percussion
 - Chamber Ensemble - Instrumental Only
 - Small or Large Vocal Ensemble
 - Small or Large Jazz Combo/Ensemble

3. On a separate piece of paper, write a short description of your work and program notes for any significant information. **Do not write your name or any other personal information on this paper, only the title of your piece.**

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Authorization for Competition

I hereby certify that the musical composition submitted by this student is the original work of this student. Furthermore, any copyrighted materials, including texts, have been cleared for use. I also attest that this piece has not been published by an outside party, and that if selected, the student is responsible for providing parts for performing ensembles. I agree to the rules and regulations stated in the Guidelines of the NJMEA Young Composer's Competition and understand that all sent materials will not be returned.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsoring Teacher's Signature _____ Date _____

Checklist for Submissions

1. Completed and signed application form.
2. Entry fee of \$20 per submission. Make checks payable to NJMEA.
3. Description of work and program notes on separate paper. **Do not write any personal information on this paper.**
4. Computer generated score of piece, preferably Finale or Sibelius. **Do not write your name or any personal information anywhere on the score.**
5. An audio file, either live recording or midi, on CD format. **Only write the title of the work on the CD, no name or any personal information.**
6. A PDF or digital version of the score. **This should be submitted on the same CD as the recording.**

For any questions or concerns, contact:

Douglas Laustsen at

douglas.laustsen@gmail.com

This box is for NJMEA use only