

JUNIOR COMPOSERS CONTEST RULES**JR 7-1****ELIGIBILITY:**

1. Entrants must be United States citizens and members in good standing of NFMC, either as a Junior Club/Junior Associate Group member or as an Individual Junior Member.
 - a. Individual Junior Members are those who are either from a state with no NFMC organization or students whose teachers are not members of NFMC.
2. A teacher need not be a member of NFMC, but the student must then join NFMC as an Individual Junior Member before or at the time of registering for the contest.
3. This contest starts at the state level. If an Individual Junior Member is from a state where there is no NFMC chapter, that Junior must **contact the National chair for assistance by January 1.**
4. First-place winners at the National level from the previous year may enter the contest in the same age class again but may not be a first-place winner in that class again.

TYPE OF ENTRY: Compositions may be for keyboard, voice, other instruments, or any combination.

AGE CLASSIFICATIONS: Your age as of March 1, 2026, determines your class.

Junior Class I	ages 9 and under
Junior Class II	ages 10 - 12
Junior Class III	ages 13 - 15
Junior Class IV	ages 16 - 18

PROCESS FOR SUBMISSION:

To enter this contest, three (3) items are necessary: the composition score in PDF format, recording in MP3 format, and payment of state and national fees, including any membership fees needed.

1. **Composition scores** may be produced and notated via a notation software application or hand notated.
2. They must have the title, composer's name, age as of March 1, 2026, and class in the upper right corner of each sheet of the composition.
3. If there are lyrics, the name of the lyricist must appear in the upper left corner. In order to get credit for a vocal line as an additional instrument, students must notate a melody for the singer, not merely write lyrics between the staves of a piano score.
4. The scores must then be converted or scanned to PDF and submitted in that format online at the NFMC registration portal.
5. **Label the PDF file in this manner:** Class #, Last name, first name, title of composition. *For example: 4, Doe, John, My Composition Title.*
6. **Recording:** The composition must be digitally recorded in MP3 format only. Label these recordings in the same manner as the score: Class #, Last name, first name, title of composition.
7. **Fees** to participate in the contest are determined by the state and are payable online during the registration process at the NFMC website. Individual Junior Members must also pay a membership fee of \$20 on the NFMC website. Visit www.nfmc-music.org/payment to pay all fees. Contact your state chair for the applicable fees and deadlines. State chairs and deadlines are found here: <https://www.nfmc-music.org/junior-composer-regional-state-chairmen/>
8. Using the NFMC online application portal (<https://forms.nfmc-music.org>), submit **(by the state's deadline)** the online application, the composition score in PDF format, and the MP3 digital file. In addition, fees must be paid while at the registration portal.

CONTEST TIME FRAME:

1. Students will receive the state judge ratings on or around March 15.

- a. The state judge will include comments about the composition that are meant to help the students advance in their composing skills.
 - b. The **state** judge will choose two (2) entries from each age class to progress to the regional level by March 1.
2. At the **regional** level, no comments from the regional judge are given, only selection of student winners occurs. The top two (2) students in each of classes I and II and three (3) students in each of classes III and IV will be given cash awards of \$100 and their entries will be sent to the national level on April 1.
3. The **national** judge will complete his/her work by May 1 and will determine winners with applicable cash awards. Only rankings, not comments, will be given by the national judge.

Ties are not permitted at any level of the contest.

FEDERATION CUP AWARDS: Although the Junior Composers Contest is no longer a part of Junior Festival, students may work towards Federation Cups in the same manner as entrants in Festival.

Note to Teachers: Please contact your state Federation Cup chair for further information about the awarding of cups.

Points awarded for the Junior Composers Contest are:

Superior	8 points for 2 or more instruments; 7 points for 1 instrument
Excellent	6 points
Satisfactory	5 points

Cash Awards given in the Junior Composers Contest by the NFMC are listed below:

REGIONAL VALENTIN AWARDS:

Junior Class I (ages 9 and under)	Two \$100* awards in each of 5 regions
Junior Class II (ages 10 - 12)	Two \$100* awards in each of 5 regions
Junior Class III (ages 13 - 15)	Three \$100* awards in each of 5 regions
Junior Class IV (ages 16 - 18)	Three \$100* awards in each of 5 regions

NATIONAL PRIZE AWARDS:

Junior Class I (ages 9 and under)	\$150*, \$125*, and two incentive awards of 100*
Junior Class II (ages 10 - 12)	\$175*, \$125*, and two incentive awards of \$100*
Junior Class III (ages 13 - 15)	\$225*, \$175*, and three incentive awards of \$125*
Junior Class IV (ages 16 - 18)	\$300*, \$200*, and four incentive awards of \$150*

NATIONAL NAMED AWARDS:

\$150*	John and Margaret Pierson Composers Award in Class III
\$150*	Laura K. Wilson Award for outstanding composition for Piano in Class IV
\$150*	Olga Klein Nelson Award in Class IV
\$250	Junior Composers Award for outstanding composition for Strings in Class IV

National Chair: Tom Gerou, tgerou@tomgeroumusic.com