

**NFMC LYNN FREEMAN OLSON COMPOSITION AWARDS  
Requirements and Regulations**

JR 8-1

**AWARDS**

Awards may be declared for any or all categories at the discretion of the judges. All monetary awards are granted for further music study.

The Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Awards are given biennially in odd numbered years.

**ELIGIBILITY**

All applicants must be nonprofessionals whose works have not been previously published for the purpose of general public use or sales.

The applicant must evidence current membership in the National Federation of Music Clubs. Non-members may enroll as Individual Members by visiting [www.nfmc-music.org/payment](http://www.nfmc-music.org/payment). (\$13.00 younger than age 18, \$16.00 age 18 through 25).

The applicant must be at the appropriate age/grade level and be studying in some area of music at the time of the application closing date (*March 1*) of the year of entry.

**Age/grade Requirements by Category:**

	<b>Awards</b>
• Intermediate: Grades 7-8-9 at application date	\$ 500.00*
• High School: Grades 10-11-12 at application closing date	\$1,000.00*
• Advanced: High School graduates through age 25 at application closing date	\$1,500.00*

Only one composition may be entered any given award year.

Applicants who receive awards are not permitted to enter the same category a second time. Example: an Intermediate award recipient cannot re-enter the Intermediate category.

Applicants who receive awards and whose compositions are subsequently published cannot re-enter the competition.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

The category entered does not determine the composition's level of difficulty. All compositions must be written within the skill levels of Early Elementary through Intermediate levels of piano study.

The length of the composition may not exceed the equivalent of four (4) engraved manuscript pages.

**Note:** Solo/ensemble arrangements, and ensemble settings of standard works are not eligible.

**MANUSCRIPT**

The applicant must submit the original and six (6) legible 8 ½" x 11" photocopies of the manuscript.

The original manuscript may be computer generated or in ink on manuscript paper not to exceed 9 ½" x 12". It must be labeled with only the name of the composition and the name of the category.

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**The applicant's name should not appear on the manuscript.** Do not use covers, bindings, or include recordings. Judges are given only the manuscript.

When the piano composition uses a copyrighted text, the composer **must submit** a written statement from the copyright owner granting permission to use the text. Texts published before 1890 are exceptions to this stipulation.

The original manuscript will be returned only if the application is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Metered mail is not acceptable because of its short stale date.

**JUDGING CRITERIA**

Judges will ascertain if all stipulations regarding composition level, length, and formatting have been met.

The entrant will be expected to demonstrate a good application of composition skills appropriate to the age/grade level entered. Use of dynamics, phrasing, appropriate fingering, pedal indications, the presence of key and time signatures, etc. will be examined.

Judges will assess the composition's originality, creativity, and pedagogical purpose. The emotional appeal of the work (both sound and title) and its marketability to a broad group of students and teachers are important considerations.

**PROCEDURE AND SCHEDULE**

Selection of award recipients is the sole responsibility of the judges. The schedule and method of adjudication is left to their discretion, except that they will follow stipulated guidelines, and maintain stated timelines.

**Application Closing Date**

1. Submission of required materials must be completed *by March 1* (the closing date) in odd numbered years. Exceptions for any reason will not be granted.
2. Applications will not be accepted more than one (1) month prior to the closing date.

**Award Date**

All award recipients will be notified on May 18<sup>th</sup> of the award year.

**STATEMENT OF INTENT**

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian, the teacher, and the applicant to determine that all entry requirements have been met, and by signature, to certify to this fact. Any variation from the letter or the intent of the stated requirements will result in the disqualification of the applicant.

**Contact the NFMC Award Chair with questions or concerns – Lisa Smith, 3774 Barbizon Circle S., Jacksonville, FL 32257; 904-307-8897**

\*Winners will be asked to submit their social security number and form W-9 to the NFMC Treasurer (IRS rule).