

NFMC Student/Collegiate Division Report, May 2026 - Sheila K. Shusterich, Chair

1. How did you promote the award you chair?
2. The number of applicants you had for the award(s) this academic year
3. The colleges and universities the applicants (non-winners) attend
4. The names of your winners, their instrument, and the school they attend
5. What is the preferred email for your NFMC Award Requirements Form?
6. Are you planning to attend the NFMC Convention June 9-13, Scottsdale, AZ?
7. Anything else you'd like to share?

Connor Barney - *The NFMC Classical Guitar Award*

1. Contacted 200 guitar professors in almost all 50 states via email
2. None
5. Preferred email: cbarney16@gmail.com
6. Not attending
7. Shocked no one applied!

Jane Bauer - *The NFMC Elizabeth Paris French Horn Award*

1. Jane joined the S/C Division in February so there wasn't time to promote the award this year.
2. None
5. Preferred email: rhodies2@bellsouth.net
6. No

Tim Baumann - *The NFMC Carolyn Nelson Double Reed Award*

1. Via social media and personal invites.
2. One
4. 1st Place – Julianne Johnson, bassoon, Univ. of Texas, Corpus Christi
5. Preferred email: tim@internationalmusiccamp.com
6. No
7. Nope-thanks!

Dana Boney - *The Ernest A. Bluhm Flute Award*

1. I promoted the Bluhm Flute Award by word of mouth, and on the National, State and Local Music Club Facebook pages.
2. I had three applicants this year.
3. The non-winners both attend the University of Alabama.
4. Sadie Goodman received the award. Sadie attends the New England Conservatory of Music.
5. Preferred email: bildana0809@att.net
6. I will not be able to attend the Convention.

Dr. Jeremy Long - *The NFMC Herman and Mary Neumann Scholarship* (awarded to a sophomore attending Miami University, Oxford, OH)

1. Internal promotion at Miami University
4. Katie Hartley, Vocal Performance Major
5. Preferred email: jeremy.long@miamioh.edu

Jim McCutcheon - *Student-Collegiate Composers Competitions Chair*

1. I didn't do a large emailing of professors, thinking (wrongly) that they were aware if the awards.
4. None
5. Preferred email: jim@mccutcheonmusic.com
6. No

Sally Palmer - *The NFMC Gretchen E. Van Roy Music Education Scholarship*

1. By narrowing the focus to a select group of schools each year – I chose 15 this year - the outreach becomes more manageable and personal. This targeted approach not only increases the likelihood of meaningful engagement with faculty and students but also allows for deeper connections within each institution. Over time, as different schools are chosen annually, the scholarship's presence will expand across the music education community.
2. One
4. First Place - \$1,500 Matthew Rutherford; Baldwin Wallace University (Ohio)
6. Yes
7. Sally resigned in March after the award season. Melissa Warnick, Nampa Idaho; State President of the *Idaho Federation of Music Clubs* accepted the Chair position for this award In April, 2026.

PLEASE NOTE, Sally Palmer resigned in March. Melissa Warnick, from Idaho, is the new Van Roy Music Education Chair, mfwarnick@gmail.com

Naomi Sanchez - *Lynn Freeman Olson Piano Pedagogy Award* - awarded in odd-numbered years

Paula Savaglio - *The NFMC Elizabeth Grieger Wiegand Sacred Music of the Faiths Award* - awarded in odd-numbered years

Sheila K. Shusterich - *The NFMC Myrtle Mehan / Hazel Morgan Music Education Scholarship*

2. Four applicants
3. Messiah University, Mechanicsburg, PA, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO, Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, Wheaton, IL,
4. Haven Perdomo, Vocal Music Education Major, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL.
7. Deborah Freeman allowed me to step-in to adjudicate the award when Linda Donley stepped down in early 2026 before the award deadline.

Lisa Smith, Chair - *The NFMC Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Awards* - awarded in odd-numbered years

Mary Claire Sullivan - *Barbara M. Irish Harp Award* (awarded to a Junior Harp Major at Curtis Institute of Music)

1. The award was promoted via blog posts on [Curtis.edu](https://www.curtis.edu), and in recital and concert programs. Here are some examples of promotion: Blog post about Maya Lindsey (2025 recipient); Blog post announcing Hannah Chen's award (2026 recipient). Hannah was announced as this year's winner from the stage at the recital on April 29 and will continue to be promoted as the Barbara M. Irish Harp Award recipient through the 2026-27 term.
2. The Barbara M. Irish Harp Award is awarded exclusively to harp students at the Curtis Institute of Music, per the donor's original intent. There are currently three harp students at Curtis—Curtis is a very small school, allowing us to be fully tuition free.
4. The 2026 winner of the Barbara M. Irish Harp Award is Hannah Chen from Union City, California. Hannah is studying harp with Elizabeth Hainen and Noël Wan and is a rising senior at the Curtis Institute of Music.
5. You are welcome to use giving@curtis.edu
6. No

Susan VonNessen - *The NFMC Music Therapy Scholarships (Irma Carey-Wilson, Dorothy Dann Bullock, Ruth B. Robertson)*

1. This past year (2025-26) I forwarded the (official) Music Therapy Awards flyer/poster to all NFMC State Presidents, encouraging them to share the information with the colleges and universities in their state offering music therapy degrees, to help promote these financial awards for young musicians considering the field of music therapy. Three State Presidents responded, excited to distribute the information.
2. There were 4 applicants for the 3 music therapy awards.
3. The non-winner applicant represented Utah State University.
4. Adrianna Kostyack - Baldwin Wallace University, Conservatory of the Performing Arts
Winner: **NFMC Dorothy Dann Bullock Music Therapy Scholarship Award** (\$1500.00)
(Instruments of emphasis - Percussion)
Jada Bacote - Radford University
Winner: **NFMC Irma Carey-Wilson Music Therapy Scholarship Award** (\$1000.00)
(Instrument of emphasis - Piano)
Mallory Jirik - Baldwin Wallace University, Conservatory of the Performing Arts
Winner: **NFMC Ruth B. Robertson Music Therapy Scholarship Award** (\$650.00)
(Instruments of emphasis - Piano, Guitar, Trumpet)
5. Preferred email: susanvn3330@yahoo.com
6. I am unable to attend the NFMC Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona.
7. Areas of concern:

Susan VonNessen - *The NFMC Music Therapy Scholarships (Irma Carey-Wilson, Dorothy Dann Bullock, Ruth B. Robertson) - continued:*

7a.) Recurring Problem: Various documents/communications that are inaccessible and/or unable to be modified on an Apple iPad, my only available technology. I have often had to contact Ashley at NFMC Headquarters, and (as you know, Sheila) ask for your help when attempting to process/complete information. In the past I have had to print forms, fill them out by hand, take a picture of and send them in, along with an explanation. This year I was also unable to download the google bio forms to send to the music therapy winners; Sheila Shusterich so graciously handled this for me.

Request: Please provide a universal, workable, fill-in-compatible Acrobat PDF form.

7b.) The current NFMC Music Therapy Award flyer/poster states “accredited schools approved by the National Association of Music Therapists”. This organizational title should be updated to the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) - the national organization for music therapists.

Dr. Stephen Rushing - *NFMC Student/Collegiate Biennial Auditions* - awarded in odd-numbered years

No reports received:

Susan Dunn, *The NFMC Oscar Valentin Award*

PLEASE NOTE, Susan Dunn is no longer the Valentin Award Chair. We are seeking a Chair.

Dr. Zach Marley, *The Frances J. Nelson Tuba Award*

PLEASE NOTE, Dr. Marley is no longer the Tuba Award Chair. Daryl Jessen is the new Chair, mrband1@yahoo.com

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila K. Shusterich
NFMC Student/Collegiate Division Chair
sheilaaks@icloud.net

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS



Tom Gerou
National Chair
Junior Composers Contest
tgerou@tomgeroumusic.com

National Junior Composer Contest Winners 2026

Adjudicator: Michael Abels

Dear Regional and State Chairs,

Another successful Junior Composers Contest has concluded, and I am pleased to announce the 2026 winners.

Michael Abels, our judge, was impressed by the talent of each contestant and the high quality of the submitted works. He commented that selecting the awards was difficult because all of the compositions were excellent.

Congratulations to all of the young composers and their teachers on this wonderful achievement. Everyone involved in this contest—whether at the state, regional, or national levels—who offered time and effort should be proud of the influence and impact you have on the rich musical culture these students represent and on the future of American music.

Thank you!

Notifications to recipients and teachers will be sent under separate cover.

Regional / State Notification

Chartered by the Congress of the United States

Class I

1st Place \$150

Yeva Wu
Dreams
Teacher: Liang Liang

2nd Place \$125

Elle Liszka
Gentle Breeze
Teacher: Dan McCurry

Incentive \$100

Jillian Zhang
Water Dragon
Teacher: Gayle Vann

Incentive \$100

Arthur Wernitz
Submerged
Teacher: Sherry Frush

Honorable Mention

Thea Bui
The Magical Woods
Teacher: Deborah Rodgers

Class II

1st Place \$175

Ava Tsang
Piano Quartet #1
Teacher: Tom L. Lohr

2nd Place \$125

Qi Wu
Tidal Current
Teacher: Liang Liang

Incentive \$100

Jonny Gritter
Evening
Teacher: Sally Sansbury

Incentive \$100

Yola Svoma
Sunset Meadow
Teacher: Richard Wall

Honorable Mention

Jordan Bourdlaies
East Meets West
Teacher: Dale Liao

Class III

1st Place \$225

Jesse Sawaya
Funeral Mosaic/Russo-Ukrainian War
Teacher: Jared Miller

2nd Place \$175

Alejandro Belgique
Divertimento for String Quartet
Teacher: Michael Johanson

3rd Place Pierson Award \$150

Jeffrey Li
Overture to the Storm
Teacher: Jonathan Spitz

Incentive \$125

Alex Landry
Adrift
Teacher: Jessy Eubanks

Incentive \$125

Luka Gekic
Encounter
Teacher: Courtney Gekic

Incentive \$125

Marvin Chen
Rondo in E flat minor: Metamorphosis
Teacher: Ben Nylander

Honorable Mention

Ellie Connors
Traveling Circus
Teacher: Dan McCurry

Honorable Mention

Hal Rees
Northern Canadian Suite
Teacher: Aaron Kline

Class IV

1st Place \$300

Grant Qu
Suite of Emotions
Teacher: Liang Liang

2nd Place \$200

Michael M Chang
Roller Coaster
Teacher: Arkadi Serper

3rd Place Olga K. Nelson \$150

Brandon Zaryczny
Impressions du Matin
Teacher: Lori McClellan

Outstanding Strings Award \$250

Alexander Jones
Loves Sorrow
Teacher: Laura Crumbleholme

Incentive \$150

Benjamin Rauh
American Rain
Teacher: Amy Nam

Incentive \$150

Elaina Stuppler
A-List
Teacher: Daniel Hartley

Incentive \$150

Rishi Iyer
Piano Concerto #1 "Eclipse" in F minor
Teacher: Kay Lang

Incentive \$150

Yifan Qiu
Golden Waves
Teacher: Liang Liang

Honorable Mention

Rhys Ceron
Dreamwreck: Echos of the Siren's Sea
Teacher: James Loughery

Honorable Mention

Tyler Cummings
New Marrow
Teacher: Andrew List

Honorable Mention

Nathan Camilleri
*Missa Brevis in Honor of
Saints Benedict and Scholastica*
Teacher: Diane Skyllis



2026 NFMJ JCC NATIONAL WINNERS

Judge: Michael Abels						
Award	Class 1	Student	Title of Composition	Teacher	ST	REG
1st place \$150	Class 1	Yeva Wu, 9	Dreams	Liang Liang	TX	SC
2nd place \$125	Class 1	Elle Liszka, 9	Gentle Breeze	Dan McCurry	SC	SE
Incentive \$100	Class 1	Jillian Zhang, 9	Water Dragon	Gayle Vann	GA	SE
Incentive \$100	Class 1	Arthur Werntz, 9	Submerged	Sherry Frush	TX	SC
Honorable Mention	Class 1	Thea Bui, 8	The Magical Woods	Deborah Rodgers	PA	NE
Award	Class 2	Student	Title of Composition	Teacher	State	
1st place \$175	Class 2	Ava Tsang, 12	Piano Quartet #1	Tom L. Lohr	NC	SE
2nd place \$125	Class 2	Qi Wu, 12	Tidal Current	Liang Liang	TX	SC
Incentive \$100	Class 2	Jonny Gritter, 12	Evening	Sally Sansbury	OH	NE
Incentive \$100	Class 2	Yola Svoma, 12	Sunset Meadow	Richard Wall	AZ	W
Honorable Mention	Class 2	Jordan Bourdlaies, 12	East Meets West	Dale Liao	CA	W
Award	Class 3	Student	Title of Composition	Teacher	State	
1st place \$225	Class 3	Jesse Sawaya, 15	Funeral Mosaic/Russo-Ukrainian War	Jared Miller	NC	SE
2nd place \$175	Class 3	Alejandro Belgique, 15	Divertimento for String Quartet	Michael Johanson	OR	W
Pierson Award \$150 (3rd place)	Class 3	Jeffrey Li, 15	Overture to the Storm	Jonathan Spitz	NJ	NE
Incentive \$125	Class 3	Alex Landry, 14	Adrift	Jessy Eubanks	TX	SC
Incentive \$125	Class 3	Luka Gekic, 15	Encounter	Courtney Gekic	GA	SE
Incentive \$125	Class 3	Marvin Chen, 13	Rondo in E flat minor: Metamorphosis	Ben Nylander	CA	W
Honorable Mention	Class 3	Ellie Connors, 13	Traveling Circus	Dan McCurry	SC	SE
Honorable Mention	Class 3	Hal Rees, age 13	Northern Canadian Suite	Aaron Kline	CA	W
Award	Class 4	Student	Title of Composition	Teacher	State	
1st Place \$300	Class 4	Grant Qu, 16	Suite of Emotions	Liang Liang	TX	SC
2nd place \$200	Class 4	Michael M Chang, 17	Roller Coaster	Arkadi Serper	CA	W
Olga K. Nelson \$150 (3rd place)	Class 4	Brandon Zaryczny, 16	Impressions du Matin	Lori McClellan	SC	SE
Outstanding Strings award \$250	Class 4	Alexander Jones, 18	Loves Sorrow	Laura Crumbleholme	IA	NC
Incentive \$150	Class 4	Benjamin Rauh, 16	American Rain	Amy Nam	MN	NC
Incentive \$150	Class 4	Elaina Stuppler, 17	A-List	Daniel Hartley	OR	W
Incentive \$150	Class 4	Rishi Iyer, 17	Piano Concerto #1 "Eclipse" in F minor	Kay Lang	FL	SE
Incentive \$150	Class 4	Yifan Qiu, 16	Golden Waves	Liang Liang	OR	W
Honorable Mention	Class 4	Rhys Ceron, 17	Dreamwreck: Echos of the Siren's Sea	James Loughery	OH	NE
Honorable Mention	Class 4	Tyler Cummings, 17	New Marrow	Andrew List	MA	NE
Honorable Mention	Class 4	Nathan Camilleri, 17	Missa Brevis in Honor of Saints Benedict and Scholastica	Diane Skyllis	MI	NE

2026 NFMJCC REGIONAL PARTICIPATION

South Central	North Central	Northeastern	Southeastern	Southeastern	Southeastern	Western
Arkansas	Illinois	Connecticut*	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alaska
Kansas	Iowa	Delaware*	Florida	Florida	Florida	Arizona
Missouri	Minnesota	District of Columbia*	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	California
Oklahoma	Nebraska	Maryland*	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Colorado
Texas	North Dakota	Massachusetts*	Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana	Hawaii*
	South Dakota	Maine*	Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi	Idaho
	Wisconsin	Michigan	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina	Montana
		New Hampshire*	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	New Mexico
		New Jersey	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Nevada
		New York*	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Oregon
		Ohio	West Virginia*	West Virginia*	West Virginia*	Utah
		Pennsylvania				Washington
		Rhode Island*				Wyoming
		Vermont*				
Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
41	72	104	205	205	205	69
No State Total						
5						



Michael Abels, Junior Composers Contest National Judge 2026

The National Federation of Music Clubs is honored to welcome Michael Abels as National Judge for this year's Junior Composer Contest. An award-winning composer of extraordinary range and influence, Abels brings to the role both distinguished artistic achievement and a deep commitment to nurturing young musicians.

He is widely known for his groundbreaking film scores for Jordan Peele's *Get Out*, *Us*, and *Nope*. His score for *Us* earned the World Soundtrack Award, and he received the Pulitzer Prize in Music for his acclaimed opera *Omar*, a powerful work that has been produced by major opera companies across the United States. Beyond film and opera, Abels is an accomplished concert composer. He has received commissions from leading ensembles including the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Los Angeles Philharmonic.

As National Judge, Michael Abels brings artistic excellence, broad professional experience, and an inspiring example of creative achievement to the NFMC Junior Composer Contest.

Mr. Abels kindly donated adjudication fee back to NFMC.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS



Tom Gerou
National Chair
Junior Composers Contest
tgerou@tomgeroumusic.com

National Junior Composer Contest Winners 2026

May 2026

Dear Yeva,

Congratulations! Your composition, “Dreams,” was named the 1st Prize Award Winner in Class I of the 2026 National Federation of Music Clubs Junior Composers Contest.

Adjudicator Michael Abels was impressed by the talent of each contestant and the high quality of the submitted works. He commented that selecting the award winners was difficult because all of the compositions were exceptionally strong.

Congratulations to you and your teacher on this wonderful achievement! Everyone involved in this contest—whether at the state, regional, or national level—hopes you will continue to compose and share your musical ideas and compositions. You are truly impacting the future of American music. Excellent work!

We would like to spotlight you, along with all of our winners, in the fall issue of *Junior Keynotes* magazine. If you are agreeable, please complete the information requested at the following link: [NFMC Award Winner Information](#)

Your certificate and award check will be sent under separate cover.

Kind regards,

Prize Sample Letter

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS



Tom Gerou
National Chair
Junior Composers Contest
tgerou@tomgeroumusic.com

National Junior Composer Contest Winners 2026

May 2026

Dear Tyler,

Congratulations! Your composition, “New Marrow,” has received Honorable Mention in Class IV of the 2026 National Federation of Music Clubs Junior Composers Contest.

Adjudicator Michael Abels was impressed by the talent of each contestant and the high quality of the submitted works. He commented that selecting the award winners was difficult because all of the compositions were exceptionally strong.

Congratulations to you and your teacher on this wonderful achievement! Everyone involved in this contest—whether at the state, regional, or national level—hopes you will continue to compose and share your musical ideas and compositions. You are truly impacting the future of American music. Excellent work!

Your certificate will be sent under separate cover.

Kind regards,

Honorable Mention Sample Letter

Chartered by the Congress of the United States

Suggestions

SUBMISSION SITE

1. **Portal** must be closed on the deadline. No exceptions for late entrants. It is a huge mess to allow late entrants.

SUBMISSION FORM:

2. **Programming** needed on submission portal to download assets, create and download spreadsheets of assets, allow indication of advancement from state, regional, national for sorting and downloading information.
3. Uploaded score and audio should **retain titles**, not replace with generic title. These are used throughout the process. Chairs have to retype the titles later.
4. Automatically add the **submission number** to the file titles for sorting and tracking.
5. **Teacher phone** numbers requested on the form.
6. **AGE** tab should say **Age as of upcoming May 1**.
7. **COMPOSITION** tab should say **Title of Composition**. One entrant answered with the instrument instead.
8. **FEDERATED STATE** tab should add (**State where teacher resides**.)
9. **Region** should automatically appear on submission form for sorting.
10. Submission form **editing** and **re-submission of assets** should be allowed on portal up to deadline and WITHOUT creating a submission ID.
11. There should be clarity about **foreign entrants**. Qualify only if a student is a citizen and resides in a US state, not outside the country, even if the teacher is US citizen.
12. **Deadlines** should be uniform so there can be clear posting of deadlines on NFMC site—not “contact your state.”
13. **Update all state and regional chairs** on the NFMC site. One state had a chair that no one knew about and one state had a chair that retired many years ago, and one state had a chair of someone who didn’t exist.
14. All states **without state chairs** should be listed on NFMC site and assigned the National Chair as the state chair.
15. The **chart** on NFMC site is very uninviting. A redesign is needed.
16. Non-state **fees** should be posted.
17. It should be made clear that **illegal photocopies** are disqualifying. Many teacher/parent requests are made a day before performance due to lack of awareness of this.
18. **Checks** should be cut from information on submission forms, if programming allows identification of winners in the system.
19. There needs to be a ‘bible’ (engineer talk) for each chair position. As each volunteer **resigns** there

is no quick and easy way to train, provide simple charts of tasks, and clear timelines.

20. Colorado-Wyoming **chair identification** is in order. Part of Colorado reports to Wyoming but not all.
21. Is it legal to **post recordings and score** online of the winners? Many recordings are of uneven quality for public listening.
22. Develop a **master list** of previous winners for posterity.
23. Ashley and Suzanne are wonderful to work with!!!
24. JCC **Gold Cup** process training and posted information. (It might be on the site?)

CODIFY:

25. First-place winners in the NFMC JCC may not win first place in the same class consecutively, but they are permitted to compete in a different class or category. Previous first-place winners can enter the same age class again but cannot win first place again in that specific class.
26. **Level-Specific Rules National Level:** First-place winners from the previous year may enter the contest in the same age class again but cannot be awarded first place in that same class for a second consecutive year.
27. **Regional and State Levels:** The official JR 7-1 rules do not explicitly state a prohibition on consecutive wins at the state or regional levels. These levels primarily serve as qualifying rounds to determine which entries advance to National adjudication.
28. **State-Specific Variations:** While the national rules are the baseline, individual state federations (like Florida or North Carolina) manage their own initial rounds and may have additional local standing rules.

SUMMARY of Eligibility by Level:

29. **Level** Consecutive First-Place Win Allowed?
 30. **State** Generally Yes (unless local state rules specify otherwise)
 31. **Regional** Yes (serves as a qualifying tier for National)
 32. **National** No (must enter a different age class/category to win 1st again)
33. No submission of the same piece twice.
 34. Discussion of AI-influenced pieces.
 35. Change on payment form to indicate Regional/National/ and non-State judge pay. (Currently no mention of non-state.)
 36. I unintentionally didn't announce the winners to the state presidents for state-level winners. I notified state JCC chairs, teachers, and students. (Emailing 43+ more people is a huge amount of minutia.)
 37. The CA 20-4 form for judges requests that the judge fill out the financial section and submit to Heidi but Section III needs to be filled out by the chair. Do I fill out and forward to the judge, to fill out and submit to Heidi?



National Federation of Music Clubs

Total Entries Submitted to Regional by Class	
Class I (up to age 9)	13
Class II (ages 10 - 12)	20
Class III (ages 13 - 15)	20
Class IV (ages 16 - 18)	19
Total Regional Entries	
	72

Northcentral Region

Kris Brugamy, Junior Composers Contest Chair

2026 Report (send to Tom Gerou, tgerou@tomgeroumusic.com by April 1)

NE Region Participating States							
#	State Name	State Report by Class				State Total	Submitted to Regional
		I	II	III	IV		
1	Illinois	4	5	6	4	19	8
2	Iowa	0	2	4	1	7	5
3	Minnesota	1	1	2	4	8	6
4	Nebraska	1	2	2	3	8	7
5	North Dakota	3	1	1	3	8	5
6	South Dakota	0	1	0	1	2	2
7	Wisconsin	4	8	5	3	20	8
8							
9							
10							
11							
Total Entries		13	20	20	19	72	41

2026 NORTH CENTRAL REGION JUNIOR COMPOSERS CONTEST WINNERS

Placement	Student Name	Composition Title	Teacher Name	State
CLASS I				
First Place	Anna Thomas, 9	Filed of Gratitude	Maria Horvath	Illinois
Second Place	Salma Alsharif, 9	Spooky Scary Night!	Jeffrey Miller	Wisconsin
CLASS II				
First Place	Laura Luebbe, 11	Rebellion in the Woods	Nancy Schoen	Nebraska
Second Place	Charles Sewell, 11	Sevillian Villain	Claudia Sewell	Illinois
CLASS III				
First Place	Jeremy Gao, 13	Adventure of the Epics	Claudia Sewell	Illinois
Second Place	Emma Lu, 13	Woodland Reverie	Sarah Miller	Minnesota
Third Place	Max Zhang, 13	Wishing	Sarah Miller	Minnesota
CLASS IV				
First Place	Benjamin Rauh, 16	American Rain	Amy Nam	Minnesota
Second Place	Alexander Jones, 18	Loves Sorrow	Laura Crumbleholme	Iowa
Third Place	Owen Kneer, 17	L'eternel Retour	Judy Zylstra	Illinois
HONORABLE MENTIONS - These do not advance to the national competition.				
Class I	Samuel Lin, 9	Train Ride	Samuel Ecoff	Wisconsin
Class II	Ramona Tidwell-Cullen, 11	Little Sister	Deanna Varagona	Illinois
Class II	Arthur Scott, 10	Saber Fight	Sarah Miller	Minnesota
Class II	Rita Norby, 12	Tadpole Swing	Lori Jessen	South Dakota
Class III	Harper Shoemaker, 14	The River	Nancy Schoen	Nebraska
Class III	Anders Sommer, 15	Lost and Found	Laura Crumbleholme	Iowa
Class IV	Austin McGrath, 18	Horizons	N/A	Nebraska
Class IV	Nia McCloskey, 17	Reverie	Samuel Ecoff	Wisconsin



National Federation of Music Clubs

Total Entries Submitted to Regional by Class	
Class I (up to age 9)	8
Class II (ages 10 - 12)	11
Class III (ages 13 - 15)	8
Class IV (ages 16 - 18)	11
Total Regional Entries	
	38

Northeast Region

Stephanie Webster-Cheng, Junior Composers Contest Chair

2026 Report (send to Tom Gerou, tgerou@tomgeroumusic.com by April 1)

NE Region Participating States							
#	State Name	State Report by Class				State Total	Submitted to Regional
		I	II	III	IV		
1	CT	0	2	0	0	2	2
2	MA	0	0	0	2	2	2
3	MD	0	0	0	1	1	1
4	MI	8	8	3	3	22	8
5	NJ	3	2	2	1	8	7
6	NY	0	1	0	1	2	2
7	OH	4	4	8	7	23	8
8	PA	10	13	16	5	44	8
9							
10							
11							
Total Entries		25	30	29	20	104	38

Northeast Region Junior Composer Contest Winners

Class I

Student Name, Age	Composition Title	Teacher Name	State
Thea Bui, 8	The Magical Woods	Deborah Rodgers	PA
Madhav Thirucherai, 9	Tempetes en ete	Dr. Samuel Yulsman	NJ
Jonny Gritter, 12	Evening	Sally Sansbury	OH
Vyvian Bui, 12	The Campfire	Deborah Rodgers	PA
Jeffrey Li, 15	Nature Suite II. Aurora Borealis	Jonathan Spitz	NJ
Ethan Monberg, 15	Foothills Of The Alps	Phillip Roberts	PA
Lucia Hu, 13	The Moonlit Meadow	Liang Liang	NJ
Nathan Camilleri, 17	MISSA BREVIS IN HONOR OF SAINTS BENEDICT AND SCHOLASTICA	Diane Skyllis	MI
Tyler Cummings	New Marrow	Andrew List	MA
Rhys Ceron, 17	Dreamwreck: Echos of the Siren's Sea	James Loughery	OH



National Federation of Music Clubs

Total Entries Submitted to Regional by Class	
Class I (up to age 9)	2
Class II (ages 10 - 12)	5
Class III (ages 13 - 15)	4
Class IV (ages 16 - 18)	8
Total Regional Entries	
	19

South Central Region

Melody Stroth, Junior Composers Contest Chair

2026 Report (send to Tom Gerou, tgerou@tomgeroumusic.com by April 1)

SC Region Participating States							
#	State Name	State Report by Class				State Total	Submitted to Regional
		I	II	III	IV		
1	Kansas	0	0	2	0	2	2
2	Missouri	2	4	2	1	9	5
3	Arkansas	2	1	1	0	4	4
4	Texas	2	6	8	8	24	8
5	Oklahoma			1	1	2	0
Total Entries		6	11	14	10	41	19

South Central Junior Composers Contest Winners

Class I

<i>Student Name, Age</i>	<i>Composition Title</i>	<i>Teacher Name</i>	<i>State</i>
Yeva Wu, 9	Dreams	Liang Liang	Texas
Arthur Wertz, 9	Submerged	Sherry Frush	Texas

Class II

Qi Wu, 12	Tidal Current	Liang Liang	Texas
Eliot Wertz, 11	Pluto, Lord of the Underworld	Sherry Frush	Texas

Class III

Nicholas Moulton, 15	Jester's Jaunt	Evelyn Falen	Kansas
Tiger Shen, 13	Journey's End	Liang Liang	Texas
Alex Landry, 14	Adrift	Jessy Eubanks	Texas

Class IV

Grant Qu, 16	Suite of Emotions	Liang Liang	Texas
James Liang	Musical Postcards, From NOLA to Paris to	Liang Liang	Texas



National Federation of Music Clubs

Total Entries Submitted to Regional by Class	
Class I (up to age 9)	45
Class II (ages 10 - 12)	72
Class III (ages 13 - 15)	55
Class IV (ages 16 - 18)	33
Total Regional Entries	205

Southeast Region- Final Report
Cheryl Poe, Junior Composers Contest Chair

2026 Report (send to Tom Gerou, tgerou@tomgeroumusic.com by April 1)

Southeast Region Participating States							
#	State Name	State Report by Class				State Total	Submitted to Regional
		I	II	III	IV		
1	Alabama	0	2	2	0	4	4
2	Florida	6	3	5	3	17	8
3	Georgia	8	17	12	7	44	8
4	Kentucky	0	2	0	1	3	2
5	Louisiana	4	8	7	1	20	7
6	Mississippi	0	3	0	2	5	2
7	N. Carolina	3	6	7	4	20	8
8	S. Carolina	2	3	2	7	14	6
9	Tennessee	0	1	0	1	2	2
10	Virginia	22	27	20	7	76	8
11							
12							
13							
14							
Total Entries		45	72	55	33	205	55

Southeast Region Junior Composer Contest Winners

Class I

<i>Student Name, Age</i>	<i>Composition Title</i>	<i>Teacher Name</i>	<i>State</i>
Elle Liszka, 9	<i>Gentle Breeze</i>	Dan McCurry	S. Carolina
Jillian Zhang, 9	<i>Water Dragon</i>	Gayle Vann	Georgia

Class II

Ava Tsang, 12	<i>Piano Quartet #1</i>	Tom L. Lohr	N. Carolina
Kendall Wang, 10	<i>Traveling Throughout Time</i>	Liang Liang	N. Carolina

Class III

Luka Gekic, 15	<i>Encounter</i>	Courtney Gekic	Georgia
Ellie Connors, 13	<i>Traveling Circus</i>	Dan McCurry	S. Carolina
Jesse Sawaya, 15	<i>Funeral Mosaic/Russo-Ukrainian War</i>	Jared Miller	N. Carolina

Class IV

Rishi Iyer, 17	<i>Piano Concerto #1 "Eclipse" in F minor</i>	Kay Lang	Florida
Brandon Zaryczny, 16	<i>Impressions du Matin</i>	Lori McClellan	S. Carolina
Alexandar Carmichael, 16	<i>Waltz for Vivienne</i>	Michelle Strain	Louisiana



National Federation of Music Clubs

Total Entries Submitted to Regional by Class	
Class I (up to age 9)	6
Class II (ages 10 - 12)	10
Class III (ages 13 - 15)	9
Class IV (ages 16 - 18)	11
Total Regional Entries	36

Western Region

Patty Hadley, Junior Composers Contest Chair

2026 Report (send to Tom Gerou, tgerou@tomgeroumusic.com, by April 1)

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WESTERN Region Participating States							
#	State Name	State Report by Class				State Total	Submitted to Regional
		I	II	III	IV		
1	ARIZONA	2	3	0	1	6	5
2	CALIFORNIA	0	8	3	6	17	6
3	IDAHO	1	7	5	4	17	7
4	OREGON	1	1	5	5	12	6
5	UTAH	0	1	1	1	3	3
6	WASHINGTON	2	3	0	3	8	6
7	WYOMING	0	1	2	3	6	3
8							
9							
Total Entries		6	24	16	23	69	36

WESTERN Region Junior Composer Contest Winners

Class I

<i>Student Name, Age</i>	<i>Composition Title</i>	<i>Teacher Name</i>	<i>State</i>
Anya Hsu, age 8	<i>Blizzard</i>	Jan Mittelstaedt	Oregon
Isaac Price, age 9	<i>Speed Ups</i>	Barbara Bergholm	Washington

Class II

Yola Svoma, age 12	<i>Sunset Meadow</i>	Richard Wall	Arizona
Jordan Bourdlaies, age 12	<i>East Meets West</i>	Dale Liao	California

Class III

Alejandro Belgique, age 15	<i>Divertimento for String Quartet</i>	Michael Johanson	Oregon
Marvin Chen, age 13	<i>Rondo in E flat minor: Metamorphosis</i>	Ben Nylander	California
Hal Rees, age 13	<i>Northern Canadian Suite</i>	Aaron Kline	California

Class IV

Elaina Stuppler, age 17	<i>A-List</i>	Daniel Hartley	Oregon
Michael M Chang, age 17	<i>Roller Coaster</i>	Arkadi Serper	California
Yifan Qui, age 16	<i>Golden Waves</i>	Liang Liang	Oregon