

JUNIOR COMPOSERS CONTEST – RULES

JR 7 - 1

ELIGIBILITY: Entrants must be United States citizens and members in good standing of NFMC, either as an Junior Club/Junior Associate Group member or as an Individual Junior Member. The teacher need not be a member of NFMC; however, in that case, the Junior must join NFMC as an Individual Junior Member before or at the time of registering for the contest. This contest starts at the state level. If an individual junior member is from a state where there is no state chair for this contest, that Junior must contact the appropriate regional chair for assistance by January 1. 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 of the year you enter 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, four items are necessary: the most current National Application form JR 7-2 filled out and signed in PDF format, composition score in PDF format, recording in MP3 format, and payment of state and national fees, including any membership fees needed.

- The current National Registration form JR 7-2 in printable PDF format can be found at <https://www.nfmc-music.org/competitionscategory/junior-composers-awards/>. You may download the form, directly type in your information, save to your computer, print, obtain all the signatures and scan as a PDF. The application form must be signed before being submitted in the online registration process. 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/>.
- Composition scores may be produced and notated via a notation software program or hand notated. They must have the title, composer's name, age as of March 1 and class in the upper right corner of each sheet of the composition. If there are lyrics, the name of the lyricist must appear in the upper left corner. The scores must then be converted or scanned to PDF and submitted in that format online at the NFMC registration portal. Remember to keep a personal copy for your records.
- Recording: the composition must be digitally recorded in MP3 format only. Label these recordings with the title, composer's name, age as of March 1, and age class.
- Fees to participate in the contest are payable online during the registration process at the NFMC website. If individual junior membership fees of \$13 are required, these must also be paid at the NFMC website. Visit www.nfmc-music.org/payment to pay both fees.
- Using the NFMC online registration portal (www.nfmc-music.org/applicant-file-upload) submit, by the state's deadline, a digital copy of the registration form, the composition score in PDF format, and the MP3 digital file. Also make payment of fees while at the registration portal.

CONTEST TIMEFRAME: Students will receive the state judge ratings on or around March 1. The state judge will include comments about the composition that are meant to help the student advance in

their composing skills. The state judge will choose two entries from each age class to progress to the regional level on March 1. At the regional level, no comments from the regional judge are given, only selection of student winners occurs. The top two students in each of class I and II and three students in each of class III and IV will be given cash awards of \$100 and their entries will be sent to the national level on April 1. The national judge will complete his/her work by May 1 and will determine winners with applicable cash awards. Comments from the national judge will not be given, only ranking.

FEDERATION CUP AWARDS: Although the Junior Composers Contest is no longer a part of Junior Festival, students may pay the additional Federation Cup fee of \$6 and work towards Federation Cups in the same manner as entrants in Festival. Note to teachers: please contact your state Festival Cup chair for further information about the award of cups.

Points awarded for Junior Composers Composition are:

Superior	8 points for 2 or more instruments; 7 points for 1 instrument
Excellent	6 points
Satisfactory	5 points
Fair	3 points
Needs Improvement	1 point

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

REGIONAL VALENTIN AWARDS:

- Class I Two \$100* awards in each of five regions
- Class II Two \$100* awards in each of five regions
- Class III Three \$100* awards in each of five regions
- Class IV Three \$100* awards in each of five regions

NATIONAL PRIZE AWARDS:

- Junior Class I (ages 9 and under) \$175*, \$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
- \$250* Junior Composers Award for outstanding composition for Strings in Class IV
- \$150* Laura K. Wilson Award for outstanding composition for Piano in Class IV
- \$150* Olga Klein Nelson Award in Class IV

*In the event of financial shortfalls, advertised award amounts may be adjusted. Applicants would be notified of the award change.

National Chair: *Patricia (Pat) Steege*, psteege@mjssecurity.com

For additional information, contact Deborah Rodgers, **Pennsylvania Junior Composers' Chair**, 222 Caswallen Dr, West Chester PA 19380-4118, Phone: 610-436-5526, Email: debArodgers@hotmail.com

NFMC Contest Fee - \$5.00

State Fee - \$6.00

Optional Gold Cup Application Form: Available on Awards page of the [PFMC website](#).