

Music Teachers' Association of California
Santa Clara County Branch
Young Composers Theme Competition

The purpose of this competition is to give the students of our MTAC branch members an opportunity to compose music on the local level to allow a new avenue for their creativity. Awards will be given to the 1st place winner and runner up in each age group: 6 – 9, 10 – 12, 13 – 15, 16 – 18, 19 and up. All contest entrants will be invited to perform at our Composers Today Recital held in May.

Students may compose in any theme category of their choice

Theme 1: A Trip to the Zoo

Ideas: Think of any animal you might see in the zoo. Laughing hyena, chattering monkeys, monkeys doing acrobatic routines, talking birds, beautiful colored birds, flamingos, swans, ducks, polar bears trying to keep cool in the pool, how about the habitat provided for each animal? What else might you associate with the zoo? Peanuts, popcorn, ice cream? Is it a hot day (heat wave), or cool? You could create an imaginary zoo with strange creatures in cages. Let your imagination go.

Theme 2: Flying Wings or Crawling Things

Ideas: Think of all the things that fly or crawl. Any ordinary bird or exotic bird, flying insects, singing crickets (Jiminy Cricket?), fireflies, airplane, hang glider, hot air balloon. Crawling things – a baby before he learns to walk, caterpillar (becomes a butterfly), ladybug, earthworm, snake weaving his way along, earthmover machines, tractors. Skateboards can crawl along or take flight as at the curbs. Let your imagination take over.

Theme 3: A Race in Space

Ideas: what happens in space? Space ships, docking stations, meteorites, moon, stars, planets (Jupiter, Mars, etc.) rockets. You could create your own theme for a star wars idea, but you may not use the existing published theme.

Theme 4: Sights and Sounds of Nature

Ideas: Rain, wind, hail, thunder, waterfalls, earthquakes, rock slides, ocean waves, tornadoes, hurricane, avalanche, crackling iceberg (sounds like rice krispies), lakes (emerald, blue, deep), hot springs, rivers, rapids, sand storms, snow flurries, volcanoes, boiling mud pots, mountains (purple mountains majesty), blue skies, gray skies, rain clouds, snow on the trees. Use your imagination.

Theme 5: Anything Goes

Ideas: your choice – compose in any of the styles or periods of music: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th Century, impressionism, jazz, ragtime, classical sonata form, romantic waltz, canon, fugue, descriptive music. You could even include anything that “goes,” like a train, race car, your heartbeat, sailboat, motorboat, ship scooter, bike.

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Comment Sheet

Composition title _____

Composers Pen Name _____

Age _____ Theme _____ #measures _____ Teacher ID# _____

Comments

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Entry Form

Teacher ID# _____
Assigned by Chairperson

**Entries must be in
Contest Chair's hands by DEC 4**

Academic Year _____ - _____

Composer's Real Name _____

Composer's Pen Name _____

Composer's age as of December 4 _____ or [] Adult [19 & up]

Title of Composition _____

Total measures _____ Written for: _____
Instrument(s), Voice or Ensemble

Entry Fee:

Up to 64 measures	\$25	129-160 measures	\$40
65-96 measures	\$30	161-192 measures	\$45
97-128 measures	\$35	for each additional 32 measures, add another \$5	

(There is no additional Branch fee)

I certify that the composition I am submitting was written in my own hand and is my own creation.

Signature (real name) of composer

Teacher's name _____ Teacher's Phone _____

Teacher's email address _____

Teacher's Address _____

Teacher: Make ONE check payable to "MTAC Santa Clara" for ALL student fees. Send check with all entries to Branch Contest Chair by Dec. 4. Remember to include a self-addressed, sufficiently stamped envelope large enough for the return of your entries. Entries will be returned in mid-January.

Office use only: check # _____ amount _____ date rcvd _____ .

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Student Manuscript Checklist

- _____ I have all the notes and rhythm written down in a rough draft.
- _____ My teacher has checked my rough draft for accuracy.
- _____ My teacher and I have decided if I should skip lines to make more room for ledger line notes, 8^{va}, or pedal markings.
- _____ I will use a light pencil and a ruler on all the lines such as bar lines, stems, beams, 8^{va} and 15^{ma} dashes, pedal lines and first and second endings.
- _____ I will make the stems about one octave in length.
- _____ I have centered the title at the beginning of my piece and written my name above the first line on the right hand side.
- _____ I have copied my music neatly being careful to line up the left hand notes directly under the right hand notes when they play together.
- _____ I have decided on a tempo word (such as Allegro, Andante) and a M.M. (metronome) number and/or a descriptive word (such as Gently, Freely) and have written these things above the first staff on the left hand side.
- _____ I have added dynamic markings for soft, loud, *cresc* and *diminuendo*.
- _____ I have marked ritard, a tempo, and fermata as needed.
- _____ I have added accent marks, staccatos, and slurs as needed.
- _____ I have written in directional signs as needed such as repeat signs, D.C. al Fine, Fine or To Coda, etc.
- _____ I have numbered the measures and ended my piece with a double bar.
- _____ I have added pedal markings (if pedal is used in the piece).
- _____ I have rechecked my manuscript carefully checking the counting and notes. I will let my teacher check it before I trace it.
- _____ I have traced my manuscript with a black fine-tip felt pen, reusing the ruler on all the lines. After the ink dried, I erased any pencil marks that were still showing.
- _____ I have made quality copies of my piece for others to enjoy.

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Teacher Guidelines

The student composer must be a student of a Santa Clara County Branch MTAC teacher in good standing.

1. The composition may be for any instrument, voice or any combination of instruments and/or voices.
2. Compositions:
 - (a) Must be original, unpublished works with all hand written manuscripts or computer-generated manuscripts done by the student. Hand written manuscripts must be written in dark pencil or black ink for clear copies.
 - (b) Submit clear photocopies of the original manuscripts so the judge can write on them. Do not submit originals.
 - (c) Electronic compositions are accepted and adjudicated with the same criteria listed under number 7 below. Include an audio cassette of the composition with the manuscript.
 - (d) Number the measures beginning with the first complete measure and at the beginning of each system of music, and on the last measure.
3. Students will enter their composition in the following age groups as of December 4:
Ages 6-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-18, 19-Adult.
4. Each manuscript must have the Title, pen name, and age of the student (adults excepted). Indicate the instrument if for other than piano.
5. Deadline for entries to be received by the Branch Chairperson is Dec. 4.
6. The judge, chosen by the Branch Composition Contest Chair will evaluate each manuscript on quality of composition, melody, harmony, rhythm, originality, neatness of score, appropriate title and accuracy of editing.