

**Music Teachers' Association of California
SANTA CLARA COUNTY BRANCH
YOUNG COMPOSERS THEME COMPETITION**

PURPOSE:

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 & runner up in each age group. 6-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-18, 19-up. The winner and runner up of each age group will be invited to perform at our Composers Today Recital.

Students may compose in any theme category of their choice.

Theme 1: A Trip to the Zoo

Ideas: Think of any animals 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 etc. 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 & 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, cloudy skies, rain clouds, snow on the trees etc. Use your imagination.

Themes 5: Anything Goes

Ideas: Your choice—Compose in the style of any of the 4 periods of music: Baroque, Classical, Romantic or 20th Century, jazz, ragtime, classical sonata form, romantic waltz, canon, fugue, or descriptive music. You could even include anything that “goes” like a train, race-car, your heartbeat, sailboat, motorboat, ship, scooter, bike.

MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA CLARA COUNTY BRANCH

**THEME COMPOSITION COMPETITION
COMMENT SHEET**

Composition title _____

Composers Pen Name _____

Age _____ Theme _____ #measures _____ Teacher ID# _____

Comments

Judge Signature _____ Date _____

YOUNG COMPOSERS THEME COMPETITION
ENTRY FORM

Year _____

DEADLINE DEC 4

Teacher ID# _____

Assigned by Chairperson

Composer's Real Name _____

Composer's Pen Name _____

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

Instrument(s), Voice or Ensemble _____

Title of Composition _____

Total measures _____

Contest fees: Single instrument or voice. Note: For a solo with accompaniment or ensembles add \$7 to the basic fee. If the ensemble is for more than 10 instruments, add \$15 to the contest fee & list the number of instruments or voices below or on the back of this sheet.

32 measures or less	\$12	129-160 ms.	\$20
33-64 meas.	\$14	161-192 ms.	\$22
65-96 meas.	\$16	193-224 ms	\$24
97-128 meas.	\$18	225 ms. or more	\$26

In addition to the above fees, please add \$7 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 _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____

Teachers: Make one check payable to MTAC, Santa Clara County Branch for all student fees. Send check with all entries to Branch Contest Chair by Dec. 4. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return of your entries.