Alabama Music Educators Association
Young Composers Competition

The AMEA Young Composers Competition has been created to encourage Alabama’s developing student composers by providing professional-level review and consideration. By recognizing outstanding student compositions, this process will support Alabama music teachers by recognizing their efforts to incorporate the NAfME standards. It is also hoped that this kind of professional recognition will provide a showcase for the composition talents of these young Alabama musicians.

Competition Guidelines and Regulations

Eligibility: Open to students grades K-College

Requirements: Compose a solo, song, string quartet, concerto, or any medium of choice in one of the categories.

Score Format: TWO copies of an original score must be sent with the entry form. Hand-written and computer-generated formats are accepted. Measures MUST be numbered on each score submitted. Tape, CD, or computer-generated recordings are encouraged but not mandatory.

Contest Rules and Procedures:
1. The sponsoring teacher must be an AMEA member.
2. Entries must be original unpublished compositions. No transcriptions or arrangements will be eligible.
3. The purpose of the competition is to encourage student composers. Therefore, the compositions must be conceived and constructed by the composer.
4. Entries shall be between 1-8 minutes in length.
5. Adjudications comments will be available after all entries have been reviewed.
6. Compositions must be submitted with a full score. Recordings are welcome but not mandatory. Please do not send parts with your score.
7. The composer’s name must appear on the score and recording (if available). The date of the composition must appear on the title page.
8. All entries must be postmarked by OCTOBER 29. Entries received after the deadline will not be considered.
9. Finalists will be selected from each Division and Category; the judges will determine how many finalists will be selected.
10. All rights, including copyright, remain with the composer.
11. Submitted materials will not be returned.
12. Compositions submitted must not be published and must not have won any other competitions.
13. The Panel of judges may include qualified University composition faculty, members of the music industry, composers, and other music educators. Their decision will be final, with the right to withhold awards if no entry is judged worthy.
14. Each composer may submit one entry.
15. Finalist(s) will be recognized at the AMEA convention.

Judging: Entries will be accepted in the following divisions and categories:
Division 1 - Elementary (K-5)
Division 2 - Middle (6-8)
Division 3 - High (9-12)
Division 4 - College

Composers may enter a piece from any of the FIVE categories below:
Category A: Solo composition (including a song with accompaniment; an orchestral instrument with accompaniment, e.g. violin sonata).
Category B: Chamber piece for a duo, trio, quintet, etc. (other than string quartet).
Category C: Orchestral/Band/Choral. (Large ensemble work)
Category D: String Quartet.
Category E: Jazz – a piece for a jazz ensemble. (combo or large ensemble)
Points (100):
30 points – structure, musical creativity, and development.
30 points – compositional technique; use of instrument(s).
30 points – melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic consideration.
10 points – presentation (to include correct musical notation).

Judging: All entrants will receive a written critique from the judging panel. The decision of the judging panel is final.

Prizes & Awards: Composition finalists will be recognized at the AMEA conference.

Entry fee: $20.00 Checks should be made payable to AMEA.

Deadline: Postmarked on or before October 29.

Entry: Send composition and completed entry form to:
AMEA Young Composers Competition
c/o Patrick Darby
Pike Road High School
696 Georgia Washington Road
Pike Road, AL 36064

AMEA Young Composers Competition – APPLICATION FORM

NAME_________________________________________BIRTH DATE______/______/______GRADE________DIVISION________
ADDRESS_________________________________________CITY_________________________STATE_______ZIP_________
TELEPHONE________________PARENT/GUARDIAN________________________________EMAIL__________________
TITLE OF COMPOSITION____________________________________________________________________________________
CATEGORY(A,B,C,D,E)_______DATE OF COMPOSITION______/______/______
SCHOOL_________________________________________SCHOOL ADDRESS________________________________________
MUSIC TEACHER_______________________________________PHONE#___________________________________________
MUSIC TEACHER EMAIL____________________________________________NAFME#________________________________________
SIGNATURE OF COMPOSER
___________________________________________________________________________
SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN
___________________________________________________________________________
SIGNATURE OF TEACHER
___________________________________________________________________________
ENTRY FEE(S) $________ CHECK # ________