

DMEA Composition Contest '25-'26

Summary:

- DMEA will offer two categories in the Composition Contest (Traditional and Songwriting)
- These two categories will be open to High School, Middle School, and Elementary School students
 - Each age group will be judged within their own divisions
- Student composers are welcome to submit their *own, original, copyrightable* work for this contest; no arrangements and no purely AI generated music

Who	What	When
HS students (9th-12th)	Traditional Composition Contest (Band, Chorus, String Orchestra)	All submissions due Friday, 10 April
HS students (9th-12th)	Songwriting Composition Contest	
MS students (6th-8th)	Traditional Composition Contest (Band, Chorus, String Orchestra)	
MS students (6th-8th)	Songwriting Composition Contest	
ES students (up to 5th Grade)	Traditional Composition Contest (Band, Chorus, String Orchestra)	
ES students (up to 5th Grade)	Songwriting Composition Contest	

Guidelines for Categories:

Category	Instrumentation	Submission Format	Submission Length
Traditional****	Band* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Woodwinds ● Brass ● Percussion Chorus** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two-Part ● Three-Part ● Four-Part String Orchestra*** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Violin ● Viola ● Cello ● Bass 	MP3 rendering / recording of piece AND PDF of score	2 minutes minimum / 4 minutes maximum
Songwriting****	Voice plus guitar OR Voice plus piano	MP3 recording of song AND PDF of lead sheet	2 minutes minimum / 4 minutes maximum

* composers may opt to have, or not have, parted instrument sections. For example, 1 clarinet part is acceptable, and 3 clarinet parts would be also.

** SA, SAA, or SATB are acceptable examples of voicing for this contest; composers may include piano if desired, whether it's a "for rehearsal purposes" piano part, or a piano part that is integral to the piece.

*** composers may opt to have either 1 or 2 violin parts.

**** for all submissions: do NOT include your name within your file names, or within the files themselves, as this is an anonymous contest!

Rubric Content:

Traditional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarity of layout in score• Appropriateness of demands of instruments/voices (i.e. range)• Variety & organization of melody, harmony, and rhythm• Adherence to submission length requirement
Songwriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarity of layout in lead sheet• Variety & organization of melody, harmony, and rhythm• Lyrics and melody support each other• Adherence to submission length requirement

How to Apply:

Click [here](#) to apply.

Remember: do not include your name on or within any of the files you submit; the entries are judged anonymously!

Deadline:

All entries are due on Friday, 10 April!