



## Alabama Music Teachers Association State Composition Competition Guidelines

### Eligibility:

Students between the ages of 5 and 26, who live in Alabama, or who study with a teacher who is a member of the Alabama Music Teachers Association, are encouraged to apply.

### Composition Competition Categories:

Elementary: Age: 5–10 as of January 1, 2026

Junior: Age: 11–14 as of January 1, 2026

Senior: Age: 15–18 as of January 1, 2026

Young Artist: Age: 19–26 as of January 1, 2026

### Awards:

The winning entry in each category may be performed at the 2026 AMTA State Conference, held in June.

### Competition Rules:

- A composition may be in any style. Arrangements are not permitted.
- Only compositions for nine performers or fewer will be accepted.
- Compositions for prepared piano are not permitted.
- The performance time/duration may not exceed 10 minutes.
- If a composer uses a text, one of the following must be included with the copies of the scores: (1) copyrighted text must have a written statement from the copyright holder giving permission to use text or (2) text that is in the public domain must have a statement signed by the student and the teacher indicating this fact.
- The score should be printed on 8.5 x 11-inch paper. The manuscript must be legible. Handwritten scores, as well as scores notated by computer music software (*Finale*, *Sibelius*, etc.) are welcome.
- The music must be *entirely* the applicant's own, original work, and applicants must have prepared the composition with the teacher listed on the application.
- Only one submission per applicant is permitted. The decisions of competition judges are final.
- **Fee:** The entry fee is \$30 for students of teachers who are AMTA members. Non-members may enter students for an entry fee of \$60.

### Submission Requirements:

- To enter, participants must submit the following materials to the Composition Competition Coordinator:
  - 1) Registration form
  - 2) Registration fee
  - 3) Score (in PDF format)
  - 4) Optional: A recording of the score (recordings may be from a studio session, a live performance, or a computer-generated format.)
- Registration materials should be submitted digitally via email except for the registration fee payment, which must be mailed.
- All files must be labeled with the name of the composition, the name of the student and the category (*Elementary, Junior, Senior, Young Artist*). Please utilize the following format for file names:
  - 1) Registration form: LastName\_FirstName\_Category\_CompositionTitle\_Registration
  - 2) Score: LastName\_FirstName\_Category\_CompositionTitle\_Score
- The name of the teacher or any reference to school/institution must not appear on the score.
- All materials must be submitted at one time. No change may be made to the manuscript once it has been submitted with the application.
- Primary communication is via e-mail. The application must list e-mail addresses for student and teacher.
- **Winners must provide their own musicians for the winner's concert. Only live performances are allowed; audio/video recorded performances will not be permitted.**
- All entries must be submitted by student's teacher; parent entries are not accepted.

Registration Materials (registration forms, scores, recordings) should be sent via email to the Composition Competition Coordinator:

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Lisa Higginbotham, NCTM  
[amtacompositioncompetition@gmail.com](mailto:amtacompositioncompetition@gmail.com)

Registration Fees should be sent via mail to the Composition Competition Coordinator:

Lisa Higginbotham, NCTM  
P.O. Box 27  
Wattsville, AL 35182  
[amtacompositioncompetition@gmail.com](mailto:amtacompositioncompetition@gmail.com)

Materials must be received by April 15, 2026