



Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs Junior Composers Contest

Welcome to the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs Junior Composers Contest.

The change to the way the NFMC Junior Composers Contest is being administered is now in its second year. The first year of registering through the national web site went through normal growing pains, but ultimately did make administering the entries easier for me as state chair. I am sure that there will still be tweaks from the national end and questions from your end but I am here for you and if I can't answer your questions I know who to ask.

You can find links to registration forms on the MFMC site, but here is everything in a nutshell:

1. Go to www.nfmc-music.org/competitions-awards/ Read this page before going to the next step.
2. At the top of the page, click on Main Category and then Junior Composers Awards. Ignore the other categories at the top of the page. They don't take you where you want to go.
3. Go to your age category as of March 1 of year entered. Click on Rules or on Registration Form.
4. When you have completed the registration form, you will pay NFMC directly and electronically send them your registration form, a pdf of your composition and an mp3 recording. They will send me a link to this information when everything has been received. If you have any special instructions or notes about your composition, send these to me directly.
5. You will need this information to complete your registration form:
 - * State Deadline — January 15 • State Fee: \$ 23.75; Gold Cup Fee:\$ 6.00.
6. Information that is on the website that might be confusing: on the composers awards page, the column between the entry fee and the deadline is one labeled Award Amount. That award is for national winners only. Each state and region may give awards, but it is individual for the states and regions. MN offers scholarships to Junior Composers Summer Programs to the Class III and Class IV winners.
7. Two compositions, designated 1st and 2nd place winners, from each age category will be sent to the regional competition. States in the North Central region (NCR) are Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Winners at the regional level will advance to the national level and national winners will be announced around May 1.

In addition to the competition element of this event, all entries will have points counted toward gold cups. When I receive the ratings, around March 1, I will email completed rating sheets, your total points toward gold cups as well as whether or not you are a state winner. If you have not heard from me soon thereafter, let me know.

At each level, I will have the immense pleasure of being able to communicate the good news to everyone. Please note that all news is good news. You all do a tremendous job by just participating. But we are not musical geniuses like Mozart and have to "learn" our way to the top. On the way, teachers and judges sometimes have to make difficult choices between many very good students. So – compose; compose for the enjoyment of composing; learn from suggestions; keep smiling; keep trying; don't give up.

Teachers who are encouraging students to take the musical risks required in composing, we thank you. You are giving your students a magical gift. I look forward to hearing the results of your efforts.

Sincerely,

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Rev, Aug., 2019