



# Oregon Music Teachers Association, Inc.

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

## Composition Festival Teacher Guidelines

### Festival Rules:

- Original student compositions of all styles and instrumentations are eligible.
- Maximum composition length is 7 minutes.
- Students must have studied with their OMTA teacher for a minimum of six months. Students of non-members may enter by paying an additional fee.
- IMPORTANT: All submissions must be notated by the composer and NOT the teacher. Teachers may assist and guide their students as much as needed, but may not create the notation on their behalf.
- Scores must conform to the Score Formatting Guidelines (see pages 2 and 3).
- Audio recordings may be performed by the composer, or by performers arranged for by the composer.
- Non-notated and handwritten scores are generally not eligible for adjudication and are not eligible for the state festival, although district chairs can choose to make exceptions. Accommodations may be made for students with disabilities.
- Late applications will not be accepted.

### Age Divisions:

DIVISION I: Ages 5-8

DIVISION II: Ages 9-11

DIVISION III: Ages 12-14

DIVISION IV: Ages 15-19

ADULT DIVISION (non-music degree, and non-published).

### How to Qualify for the State Composition Festival:

There are two pathways for students:

1. Students participate at the district level event. At the district level, compositions are adjudicated and students with the most outstanding compositions in each age division are chosen as Honored Composers. These Honored Composers are then invited to participate in the OMTA State Composition Festival.
2. Students participate in the [Young Composers Project](#) sponsored by the non-profit organization Fear No Music, directed by Jeff Payne. These students can participate in the State Festival without entering a district event.

In order to be accepted to the State-level virtual Composition Recital, students will need to create a YouTube video that includes a performance or audio recording of their composition.

#### YouTube Video Requirements:

- Must be set to public or unlisted
- Must NOT be marked "made for kids"
- Do not use YouTube "Shorts"

#### Tutorials for creating YouTube link:

1. How to Create a Personal YouTube Channel:  
<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/1646861?hl=en>
2. How to Upload a Video to My YouTube Channel:  
<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/57407?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en>
3. If you are encountering an upload error:  
<https://support.google.com/youtube/troubleshooter/2888438>

#### Score Formatting Guidelines:

1. Margins must be one inch all around the document – top, bottom, left, right.
2. Please center title - use 24 point Times New Roman font.
3. Student's name and age - upper right corner under title - use 10 point Times New Roman font.
4. Please put a copyright symbol, the year 2026, & student's name at the bottom of each page of their score.
5. The score should have measure numbers at the beginning of each system.
6. The score should have page numbers on each page after the first.
7. See the example below for correct formatting.

# Formatting Example

Jane Doe - Age 8

Joyfully ♩ = 80

Musical notation for measures 1-7. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measures 1-4 are marked *mf* and measures 5-7 are marked *f*. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass clef provides accompaniment. A repeat sign is present at the beginning of measure 5.

Musical notation for measures 8-15. Measure 8 is marked *mf*, measure 9 is marked *f*, and measure 15 is marked *mf*. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass clef provides accompaniment. A repeat sign is present at the beginning of measure 8.

Musical notation for measures 16-23. Measure 19 is marked *f*. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass clef provides accompaniment. A repeat sign is present at the beginning of measure 16.

Musical notation for measures 24-31. Measure 29 is marked *p*. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass clef provides accompaniment. A repeat sign is present at the beginning of measure 24.