



WMTA Young Composer Festival 2026

The WMTA Young Composer Festival provides a chance for students in Wisconsin to create their own original works and receive feedback from a composition teacher. This festival is sponsored by WMTA and there is no advancement beyond the state level.

Entrant Eligibility

This festival is open to any music student living in Wisconsin.

There are three age divisions, determined by the entrant's age as of July 1st of the competition year:

- Elementary (8 – 10)
- Junior (11 – 14)
- Senior (15 – 18)

Two options are available for students:

1. Competitive with judge comments and a chance to place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.
2. Non-competitive with judge comments only.

*Junior and Senior Competitive will be further divided into two categories for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place:

1. Ensemble – music written for two or more instruments (i.e. string quartets, choral scores, jazz combos, vocal art songs, pop lead sheets)
2. Solo Instrument – music written for one instrument only (no accompaniment)

Students may only submit one entry to the festival per year. Students are not restricted from entering the MTNA Composition Competition in the same year. Students may enter the same composition in other composition contests sponsored by other organizations.

Points

All entrants will receive ten points, a certificate of participation, and written comments by the judge.

1st place: an additional 5 points

2nd place: an additional 4 points

3rd place: an additional 3 points

Submission Information

Compositions may be for any combination of instruments or voices. All styles welcome. Entries using AI generated material are not allowed.

A composition that makes use of copyrighted text must be accompanied by a written statement from the copyright holder giving permission to use the text. If the text is in the public domain, a statement signed by the student and teacher indicating this fact must accompany the entry.

Entrants should submit one copy of the score as a PDF and an mp3 or 4 recording of their piece to the Young Composer Festival Chair, Amber Bruns, NCTM, amber@bluemaplemusic.com. The only identifying information on the score should be the title and entrant's age category.

Please do not include the name of the student or teacher on the pdf or recording.

All entries must include a recording. Recordings of scores must be submitted as mp3 or 4s. Please note that .WAVs, movies, and other file formats will not be accepted.

Application: Must be submitted online by **11:59pm, July 1st, 2026**

Entry Fee: Must be postmarked by **July 1st, 2026**

PDFs/MP3 or 4s Must be submitted via email by **11:59pm, August 15th, 2026**

Fees:

-Elementary: Competitive \$30 (\$20 non-compete)

-Junior: Competitive \$35 (\$25 non-compete)

-Senior: Competitive \$40 (\$30 non-compete)

Teachers submit payment with one check made out to WMTA. No student checks. Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. If the teacher is not a member of WMTA, or has not paid their dues by the entry fee deadline, please include an additional \$150 non-member fee.

Mail entry fee to: WMTA P. O. Box 46203 Madison, WI 53744

Contact the Young Composer Festival Chair, Amber Bruns, NCTM, amber@bluemaplemusic.com with any questions.