GUIDELINES FOR COMPOSITION JUDGES

MTNA Composition Competitions

The intent of the composition competition sponsored by Music Teachers National Association is to encourage creativity and self-expression in student musicians through the art of composing and to recognize their achievements, as well as the significant work of their teachers.

STATE DEADLINE: **Submit rankings online by October 15.**

DIVISION DEADLINE: **Submit rankings online by December 1.**

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Judges will receive an e-mail link to a personalized judges portal. On your page, you will see all of the compositions (PDFs and YouTube Links), and the corresponding comments page for each entry.
- PDFs will either open in your browser or download locally depending on your computer's settings.
- When writing comments, make sure to click "Save as Draft" at the top of the page when leaving the page, or click "Finalize" on the comments sheet if you are finished writing comments for that entrant. On the main portal page, you will notice the red check mark beside an entry will turn green when you finalize comments for that entrant.
- Rank all compositions in each category by assigning numbers, assigning #1 to the best composition, #2 to the second-best composition, and so on. Ties are not allowed. A ranking of #1 must be assigned.
- Each time you visit your judges portal, be sure to click "Save as draft" when you leave the page, or "Finalize" when you are finished with the entire process.
- When you are done with all of your comments and rankings, click "Finalize" at the top of the portal to alert the coordinator that you are finished with the judging process.
- Be sure to verify your contact information at the bottom of the portal, as this is how you will be paid.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Each category (Elementary, Junior, Senior, Young Artist) must be judged separately.
- Do not compare the quality of the work with that at a higher or lower level than the composition being adjudicated.
- A single entrant in a category is named the Representative and will automatically advance to the next level of the competitions. Judges will write comments for these entrants and give them a #1 ranking.
- YouTube Links are included to help aid in the judging process. The accuracy and quality of the file should not be considered in the ranking and should not be referenced in the comments. Entrants should be ranked solely on the quality of their written composition.
- Written comments should be tactful and encourage improvement. MTNA does not encourage or discourage any specific style of composition. This should not be a factor in the judging process.
- Neatness of notation, though an important factor, should generally not be considered as important as originality and craftsmanship of the material itself.
- Judges must assume that the work is by the entrant.
- Judges may not write any ranking in the comments.