



Submission Guidelines

1. **PARTICIPANTS** The New Jersey Association for Gifted Children (NJAGC) invites students of New Jersey public, private, or home schools, in grades K-12, to submit original, instrumental music compositions.



2. **JUDGING** All pieces will be judged on:

- Originality
- Melodic development
- Compositional proficiency
- Demonstration of understanding of the instrument's capabilities
- **All pieces must modulate to explore a new key**

NOTE: If only a single entry is received, NJAGC reserves the right to defer the award for that division.

3. GUIDELINES

Grade Divisions	K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
Duration in Minutes	0:30-1:30	1:30-2:30	2:00-4:00	2:30-5:00
Sheet Music (to be submitted)	Optional	Optional	Recommended	Required

- Compositions must be instrumental, without lyrics.
- Compositions must be entirely student-created with adults acting as consultants only. Adults may NOT do any of the actual composition work. Arrangements of pieces by other composers will not be accepted.
- Compositions may be played by the student *or another person*. **If the piece is played by someone other than the student composer, sheet music must be submitted, regardless of Grade Division.**
- Submissions must include a signed statement by a parent verifying that they are entirely student-created, whether done at home or in school (see form below).



4. **SUBMISSION FORMAT** - Compositions can be submitted as video file (WebM, .MPEG4, .3GPP, .MOV, .AVI, .MPEGPS, .WMV, .FLV, .ogg) or audio file (MP3, MPEG, WAV, .ogg, .opus). A performance can also be submitted via YouTube link. All entries must be accompanied by a scanned, signed parental permission form (see below). Visit <https://njagc.org/njagc-contests-and-awards/> for more information and to submit the submission form. Email any questions to musiccontest@njagc.org.

5. **ENTRY DIVISIONS** - There are four grade divisions.

Grades K-2

Grades 3-5

Grades 6-8

Grades 9-12

All submissions must comply with copyright and Fair Use policies.

6. **DEADLINES** - Submit your compositions [here](#) by 11:59 PM on February 13, 2026.



2026 Music Composition Contest

Parental Permission Statement

Dear Parent,

Please sign the following permission slip for your child to enter the NJ Association for Gifted Children (NJAGC) 2026 Music Composition Contest.

I hereby give permission for my child to enter the 2026 NJAGC Music Composition Contest. I agree to give NJAGC permission to include links to their submission on the NJAGC website and other digital publicity, media, and to publish their name and photo in print, digital publicity and announcements.

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

This signature verifies that the piece is created entirely by the student named below.

Parent Email _____

Parent Phone Number _____

Name of Student (Please print): _____

Address of Student _____

Name of Teacher: _____

School District: _____

Grade Division: ____ Grades K-2 ____ Grades 3-5 ____ Grades 6-8 ____ Grades 9-12