

## OFMC JUNIOR COMPOSER CONTEST 2026 DIRECTIVES

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**Application Deadline: February 1, 2026**

**Application Fee: \$25**

1. Access the 2025 JR-7-1 Rules from the National Federation of Music Clubs website for information about eligibility, process of submission and competition timeline:  
<https://www.nfmc-music.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/JR-7-1-Junior-Composers-info.pdf>
2. **Before the national deadline of February 1, 2026**, select your student's class and age group under "Junior Composers Awards" and follow the directions on the [National Rules](#) to submit all application materials, including:
  - a sound recording your student's composition in MP3 format
  - a PDF copy of your student's composition

*Applications may be submitted until 11:59pm on February 1. Applications submitted on February 2 will not be accepted.*

3. **Submit the \$25 combined National and Ohio application fee on NFMC's payment page:** <https://www.nfmc-music.org/payment/>
  - Please specify in the Notes section which competition and student for which you are paying (e.g. *I am paying for Jack Smith's entry to the Ohio Junior Composer Contest, Class I*).
  - If your student's teacher is not a member of NFMC, your student will need to pay an additional \$13 for an individual junior membership.

Please specify in the Notes section of the payment page that payment for an individual junior membership is included (e.g. *I am paying for Jack Smith's entry to the Ohio Junior Composer Contest, Class I and for an individual junior membership because Jack's teacher is not a member of NFMC*)

4. After submitting the application and payment to the NFMC website, you will receive a confirmation email. Please save this confirmation in case of any technical errors. **If you do not immediately receive an email, please contact me. Non-receipt means that your submission did not go through!**

## JUNIOR COMPOSER TIMELINE

### Ohio State Contest:

Winners of the OFMC State Junior Composer Contest will be announced by March 1.

All OFMC Junior Composer Contest applicants will receive judges comments (sent electronically) at the end of March/early April.

### Regional Contest:

After the State Contest is completed, the 1st and 2nd place winners will be forwarded to the Northeast Regional Junior Composer Contest. Regional winners will be selected by a regional judge. The Northeast Regional Junior Composer Chair will notify regional winners following the end of the regional contest, or by April 1.

### National Contest:

Regional winners will, then, move on to the National Junior Composer Contest where their compositions will be judged by a national judge. The National Junior Composer Contest Chair, Tom Gerou, will notify the winners at the end of the National Contest, or by May 1.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Only one composition per entrant may be submitted per calendar year.
- Checking the PR (public relations) Release on the NFMC application form gives OFMC permission to share streamed (not downloaded) audio recordings of your student's composition with other OFMC teachers and students. This PR Release also allows OFMC to publish photos of your student in OFMC publications such as Junior Keynotes if they perform at a OFMC event.
- Upon application for the Junior Composer's contest, you are agreeing to have your composition published in the Ohio Junior Composer's Booklet without compensation. Lengthy compositions may be edited for publication in the Ohio Junior Composers book. All applicants will be mailed a copy of the Junior Composer Contest Booklet in June.
- OFMC state winners are invited and strongly encouraged to perform their compositions at the OFMC State Convention (either by the composer or someone else) or Junior Day. Both events are usually held the second or third weekend in October each year. You will be sent an invitation by the Ohio Junior Composer Contest Chairman regarding these performance opportunities. If your score is for multiple instruments or voices, you will need to secure the additional performers for the performance.