

2023-2024 Composition Competition Report

Chairperson: Christy Tallamy

This year the Composition Competition received 22 entries from 16 teachers. Entrants ranged in age from 7 to 17 with an experience level of 1 year of study to 9 years of study. The postmark deadline for this event was March 7, 2024 with an entry fee of \$24.

The entries were evaluated and ranked by three judges with a fourth judge collaborating on the selection of the orchestral score: Dr. Dave Chavez of Shenandoah University, Dr. Stephen Guerra of the University of Miami, our own NVMTA member Dr. Chris Kies, and Dr. Laurie Hudicek, the Director of the LYSO.

This year the judges required 7 weeks to review all the scores. All judges cited a difficulty in ranking the compositions due to (1) the high quality of each score (2) the diversity of the entries and (3) the varying experience levels of the composers. The final rankings were similar among all 4 judges.

The scores submitted included a singer/songwriter, four full orchestral scores, piano concertos, etudes, and chamber scores. Comments were collected using a Google Form with one judge preferring to write comments directly to the provided score. Audio files were collected via Google Drive.

Budget challenges included an increase in mailing costs due to the increase in entries and size of scores as well as the addition of a third judge. The addition of the LYSO award will also affect the budget needs as the NVMTA will need to provide copies of the score to the LYSO.

The addition of the LYSO performance award will allow a young composer to work with an orchestra comprised of their peers in editing and adjusting the score to fit the needs of the orchestra. Dr. Chris Kies, Dr. Laurie Hudicek and Christy Tallamy will assist the winning composer in preparing their score for orchestral performance. This year's performance will be given on July 26th at 7pm at Stone Bridge High School.

In consideration of the larger number of entries, the acceptance of digitally generated audio files and the increasing diversity of entries, it is suggested that we consider:

- (1) Adding a one paragraph "Artist Statement" requirement to the entry form
- (2) Providing a sample of the early writing process
- (3) Adding a third category to the event for orchestral/chamber entries
- (4) Adjusting the judging system to a Point System rather than a Ranking System
- (5) Adding a time limit to composition entries
- (6) Allowing scores to be submitted as a digital PDF file.

TEACHER PARTICIPANTS

Teacher	Entries	Mailing Fee	Total Fee
Ying Fu	1	5	29
Laura Bogart	2	0	48
Kate Moore	1	0	24
Jeri Bennett	1	0	24
Patricia Huff-Palumbo	2	0	48
David Kosutic	2	0	48
Misha Tumima	1	0	24
Evan Meier	1	0	24
LeeAnna Xanthos-McQueen	1	0	24
Edvinas Minkstimas	1	0	24
Chen-Lin Chang	2	0	48
Christina Pezzimenti	1	0	24
Christy Tallamy	2	0	48
Olga Roberts	1	5	29
Mihyang Joo	2	0	48
Kelly Nam	1	0	24
Total Number of Entries	22		
Total Number of Teachers	16		
Total Fees Collected	461		

COMPOSITION COMPETITION WINNERS: 2023-2024

Frances Hollans Award (12yo & under)

Most Creative Submission (\$25)

Music Colors

Composer: Nicholas Aronin

Teacher: Laura Bogart

Honorable Mention

Les Aventures du Chat

Composer: Eva Strutt

Teacher: Dr. Misha Tumanov

Jo Lombard Award All Entries Considered

First Place (\$150)

I guess I thought I knew

Composer: Heidi Hager

Teacher: Tim Chang

Second Place (\$75)

Stand & Look Until You Really See

Composer: Max Gonzales

Teacher: Kate Moore

Third Place (\$50)

Sunrise

Composer: Jaeyoon Kim

Teacher: Kelly Nam

Honorable Mention

Allegro Vivace

Composer: Christopher Stubbs

Teacher: Evan Meier

Loudoun Youth Symphony Selection

Stand and Look Until You Really See

Composer: Max Gonzales

Teacher: Kate Moore

Student and Teacher Bios

This year, winners were asked to submit a student/teacher bio. The following have been submitted:

HEIDI HAGER is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Rachel Carson Middle School. Heidi began teaching herself songwriting at the age of 10. Her YouTube compositions playlist currently has over 20 of her original songs. Under Mr. Chang's instruction and coaching, she has won numerous vocal competitions nationally and internationally. Whether the venue is Carnegie Hall or the school auditorium, she cherishes every stage while performing and sharing her music with the audience.

Tim Chang is a classically-trained opera singer and a native of Taiwan. He obtained his Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from Shenandoah University. Currently, Mr. Chang serves as an LCPS choral director and is also the director of Novasian Chorus.

CHRISTOPHER STUBBS is a sophomore at BASIS Independent McLean. Apart from music composition, he also participates in his school's Speech and Quiz Bowl clubs, and he is a member of the National Honor Society. He enjoys indoor rock climbing, hiking and cooking.

Evan Meier is the chair of Music Theory and Composition at Levine Music in Washington, DC. He also teaches piano, composition, and music theory at his home studio in Annandale, VA.