

Dear Music Teachers:

We are excited to accept music compositions from your students for the **MMEA Young Composers Festival**. The full guidelines are shown on the following pages, but let me address a few key points:

- **Every child** is capable of creating original music.
- **Every grade** level should be represented. We seek compositions from students who will be in grades K-12 in year following the submission deadline.
- **Every idea** imaginable is worthy of consideration. The pieces that are submitted can use any sound source. They may be scored for choral, instrumental, solo recorder, solo snare drum, full orchestra, rock band, jazz band, vocal band, two tubas and a piccolo, a loops and sequence program, or whatever the young composer imagines.
- **Every composer** who submits a piece will receive a personal response from a professional composer who is trained to provide comments to young composers. The letters will be full of praise and may suggest directions for future development of the piece or new projects for the composer to try. We want every child to have a positive educational experience.
- **Every piece** will be considered for premiere at the MMEA In-Service Conference in May.
- **Every year** the PSO will perform from our submissions on their Youth Concert Series. Pieces considered for this honor must total 3 minutes (in order to be in balance with the rest of the PSO program). A single piece could be 3 minutes long or several shorter works that total 3 minutes. The PSO may ask for permission to rescore a young composers piece to better suite the capacities of the orchestra.

Please take a day or two of instruction time to engage kids in composing and encourage them to share their compositions. We are anxious to hear new music from Maine's bright, talented, and creative young musicians!

Submissions will be accepted through April 30, 2012.

Send any questions my way –

Cordially,

Michele Kaschub, MMEA Young Composer's Festival Chair

[kaschub@usm.maine.edu](mailto:kaschub@usm.maine.edu)

# MMEA YOUNG COMPOSERS FESTIVAL

## A CALL FOR COMPOSITIONS

Students who will be enrolled in grades K-12 in 2012-13 are invited to submit original compositions for the **MMEA Young Composers Festival**. Each student who submits a composition will receive a MMEA Certificate of Participation and written feedback on his/her piece from a professional composer. The compositions may be in any style and genre.

Each submitted composition will be considered for inclusion in the **MMEA Young Composers Recital** at the May MMEA Conference. In addition to having a composition included in the MMEA Recital, one young composer will have his/her piece performed by **Portland Symphony Orchestra during its Spring 2013 Youth Concert Series**.

### **Eligibility:**

- This festival is open to all students who will be enrolled in K-12 in the 2012-13 academic year.
- Composers must be students of an MMEA member or attend a school that has paid MMEA institutional fees for festival participation.

### **Submission Requirements:**

- Submission fee: (\$30) for each composition entry. Make check payable to MMEA.
- Each student may submit as many as two (2) compositions.
- Compositions may not exceed five (5) minutes in length. Pieces must be at least 3 minutes in length to be considered for PSO performance. Multiple movements totaling 3 to 5 minutes are acceptable.
- All entries must include a score and a recorded performance (CD). Scores and recordings will not be returned, so please do not send originals.
- MIDI files may be used as performances, but please do not submit data files (Sibelius, Finale, etc.).
- A brief program note written by the composer must accompany each entry.

### **Evaluation Criteria & Timeline:**

- Evaluation is based on five criteria: Intent, Expressivity, Artistic Craftsmanship, Originality and Overall Appeal
- The festival committee will attempt to select pieces in a variety of styles and genres representing work in three age categories (K-4, 5-8, 9-12).
- Students and teachers will receive feedback in September. The five (5) top-rated pieces will be nominated for review for inclusion in MENC's Eastern Division Young Composers Festival during Eastern Division Conference years.

### **Performance:**

- If a composition is selected for inclusion in the MMEA Young Composers Recital, the committee will assist in the recruitment of performers, but cannot guarantee a performance.
- Composers of selected compositions are expected to attend the conference and participate in all Young Composer events.

**Submissions must be postmarked by April 30, 2012 and sent to:**

Dr. Michele Kaschub  
MMEA Composition Chair  
25 Majestic Heights  
Windham, ME 04062

For further information, please contact Dr. Michele Kaschub by email [kaschub@usm.maine.edu](mailto:kaschub@usm.maine.edu).

**MMEA YOUNG COMPOSERS FESTIVAL APPLICATION**

**2012-2013**

(Please print clearly. Submit a separate form for each entry.)

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in 2012-13 AY \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

School City, Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Music Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ MENC membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Email \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Check the appropriate category: (separate application for each composition)

- |  |                               |                  |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|
| _____ instrumental solo                          | _____ vocal solo              | _____ piano solo |
| _____ instrumental ensemble                      | _____ vocal ensemble          | _____ vocal jazz |
| _____ collaborative work (two or more composers) | _____ instrumental jazz       |                  |
| _____ purely electronic                          | _____ electronic and acoustic |                  |

Program note \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We hereby certify that the musical composition being submitted with this application is the original work of the student(s) named above. The text, if applicable, has been authorized for public usage, and is not presently protected by copyright.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Music Teacher Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Submissions must be postmarked by April 30, 2012 and sent to:**

Dr. Michele Kaschub  
MMEA Composition  
25 Majestic Heights  
Windham, ME 04062

## Timeline for the 2012-2013 MMEA Young Composers Festival

Date	Event
April 30, 2012	Submission deadline for 2012-2013 *See attached guidelines
Mid-May 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All submissions distributed to reviewers</li> <li>2. Reviewers score all compositions by grade category for inclusion in May 2013 MMEA Young Composers Concert</li> <li>3. Reviewers write evaluation letters to each young composer</li> </ol>
Early September 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Letters and participation certificates sent out to young composers</li> <li>2. Recordings and scores of highest rated work mailed to Portland Symphony Orchestra in preparation for spring (March/April) Youth Concerts</li> </ol>
Late Oct/Early Nov 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chair reserves 3 session blocks for MMEA Conference – 2 for rehearsal, 1 for recital</li> <li>2. Chair invites a representative sample of composers from each age category, K-4, 5-8, and 9-12 to participate in the MMEA Conference YCF Recital</li> <li>3. <i>Submissions and rankings of top 5 entries sent to Daniel Deutsch, Eastern Division Chairperson for consideration in MENC Eastern Division Conference years. Deadline varies.</i></li> </ol>
Early January 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PSO winner notified and arrangements for premiere are made</li> <li>2. “Performance Agreements” are due from composers participating in the MMEA Conference YCF Recital</li> <li>3. <i>If an Eastern Div year, student composers will be contacted by Daniel Deutsch regarding participation in the Eastern Division Young Composers Concert</i></li> </ol>
January 15, 2013	Chair makes performance arrangements for the MMEA Conference YCF Recital
March/April, 2013	PSO premiere (invitations are sent to the composer, parents, music teacher, principal, superintendent, school board chair. The MMEA YCF Chair and President attend Youth Concert Performance.
Mid-April, 2013	Chair sends conference info to all MMEA Conference YCF Recital participants (confirm performance time, date, location, dress, rehearsal time, etc)
May 2013	YCF Recital at MMEA Conference