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CAN YOU PROVIDE A QUICK OVERVIEW OF NEXTNOTES®?

NextNotes® is music composition award program for high school students.

Applications are accepted via an online submission process and judged by professional composers.

Six entrants will be selected to receive the top prize, up to thirty applicants will be chosen as an Honorable Mention, and all eligible applicants will receive a free one-year student membership to the American Composers Forum.

For full details and application information, Guidelines can be found at www.NextNotes.org.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER?

Anyone in 9th-12th grade (aged 14-18) who writes music of any style is eligible.

WHAT IF I WROTE MY PIECE WITH A PARTNER?

Two composers may submit a piece together, but groups larger than 2 are not eligible to apply. In the case of a pair submitting together, both entrants must meet eligibility requirements.

WHAT IF I WROTE THE MUSIC AND A PARTNER WROTE THE WORDS?

If your partner wrote the words and did not help write the music, only you (the composer) is eligible to apply. If your partner wrote the words and also helped craft how the singer or rapper should perform those words, then you are both eligible to apply, as long as you both meet all other eligibility requirements.

MAY I APPLY MORE THAN ONCE PER APPLICATION ROUND?

No. Each applicant may only apply one time with only one composition. If you wrote your piece with a partner, you and your partner may NOT apply again as individuals.

WHAT TYPE OF MUSIC IS ELIGIBLE?

All styles of music are eligible. Your submission may be for any voices, instruments and/or electronics. The total number of performers may not exceed 8.

WHAT ABOUT RAP AND HIP-HOP?

All styles of music are eligible. If you're a rapper, the beats or music you rap over must be written by you or written by a partner with whom you are applying. If you are using beats or a track that someone else wrote, your piece is not eligible for *NextNotes*.

WHAT IF I IMPROVISE?

Improvisation is welcome! If you wrote a piece that others are asked to improvise on, please provide the instructions they were given or a score to show your compositional input on the piece.

CAN YOU EXPLAIN COPYRIGHT AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN?

Copyright is very complex. If you did not write a text or a piece of music (even just a short excerpt), you need to make sure it is legal for you to use it. That means you need to have permission from the author, composer or publisher to use the work. Some things are so old that they are in the “public domain” and don’t have copyright restrictions, but some old texts are still under copyright because they’ve been translated more recently – like some translations of the bible. Here’s a resource with some more information about copyright law:

<http://copyright.cornell.edu/resources/publicdomain.cfm>

It’s important that if you are thinking about using a text, you do some research and find out if it is legal for you to use it! If it’s in a book, look up the publisher and contact them to get permission. If you found the text online, it may take some research.

HOW DO I SUBMIT AN ENTRY?

Applications must be submitted electronically via the following link:

<https://americancomposersforum.slideroom.com/>.

Entries submitted by mail or means other than the official electronic process will not be eligible for consideration.

WHAT DO I NEED TO SUBMIT?

In addition to filling out the submission form online, you are required to submit a recording of your piece. It can be an audio (up to 30 MB) or video (up to 60 MB) recording – whichever you wish. If you also want to submit a score, you may do so via PDF (up to 10 MB). Acceptable audio formats are: .mp3, .wma, .ogg, .flac

DO I NEED TO HAVE A PROFESSIONAL RECORDING PREPARED FOR MY SUBMISSION?

Your recording doesn't have to be high-tech or professional. You can use a smart phone to record the performance or send a MIDI realization that has been converted to an acceptable audio format (see above). You will not be judged on the quality of the recording itself.

HOW WILL MY SUBMISSION BE JUDGED?

A panel of professional composers with diverse musical backgrounds will review the submissions.

Compositions will be evaluated according to three broad criteria: Originality (25%), Creative Potential (25%), Overall Musical Effect (25%), and Compositional Technique (25%).

IS THERE A FEE TO APPLY FOR NEXTNOTES?

No. It is free to apply.

WHAT DO I WIN?

The six *NextNotes* Composers will receive: mentorship from professional composers and musicians over a two-day workshop, flights to/from the workshop, room/board during the workshop, a public concert of the winning works, a scholarship of \$1,000 to be used for formal composition studies, a recording of the culminating concert, Finale® music notation software, be eligible to nominate a music educator to receive a one-year SmartMusic Educator Subscription, and be eligible to receive up to \$500 in “bring it home” funds to share their accomplishment with their hometown.

Up to thirty applicants will be chosen as an Honorable Mention and will receive written feedback on their composition from the panel of judges.

All entrants who submit all required materials and are deemed eligible applicants will receive a free one-year American Composers Forum student membership.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF AN ACF MEMBERSHIP?

Some of the benefits are:

- Access to listings on the [ACF Opportunities List](#)
- A member profile page on our website
- Ability to post listings on our website [Events page](#)
- Access to useful [legal and professional development material](#) on the ACF website
- Access to periodic [professional development workshops, seminars and networking opportunities](#)
- Discounts on additional *Finale*® notational software via [MusicBarn.com](#)

WHO ARE THE COMPOSER MENTORS?

The composer mentors are professionals who are chosen for their high skill level as composers and strength as educators. The 2018 *NextNotes* Mentors have not yet been selected. The 2017 *NextNotes* Mentors were: [Carol Barnett](#), [Joshua Clausen](#), and [Joseph Horton](#).

IF I WIN, WHO WILL PERFORM MY COMPOSITION?

If you are chosen as one of the six *NextNotes* Composers, we will ask you what your vision is for your piece – our goal is to help that vision come to life at the final concert. Did you write it for other musicians to play? If so, we’ll hire professionals to perform your piece. Did you write it to perform it yourself? If so, you will!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE JUNE WORKSHOP?

The workshop days will be filled with mentorship and music! The schedule is below:

Thursday, June 21, 2018

6:00 PM Travel to Minneapolis-St. Paul
Orientation and dinner

Friday, June 22, 2018 - Day 1

8:30 AM: Breakfast and introduction to speaking about work
10:00 AM-1:00 PM: Rehearsal and individual feedback sessions with mentors
12:45 PM-2:00 PM: Lunch and speaking about your work, cont.
2:00 PM-5:00 PM: Rehearsal, cont.
4:45 PM-6:00 PM Rest/time off
6:00 pm – 10:00 PM Dinner/attend concert TBD

Saturday, June 22, 2018 - Day 2

8:30 AM: Breakfast
9:30 AM-11:00 AM: *What composers do and how they do it*
11:30 AM-1:00 PM: Lunch & *What's next for you?*
1:30 PM-2:00 PM: Sound check
2:00 PM-4:00 PM: Dress rehearsal
4:30 PM-6:00 PM Rest/time off
6:00 PM-7:30 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Concert

Sunday, June 23, 2018

8:30 AM: Breakfast and debrief with mentors
Travel home

WHERE WILL THE WORKSHOP AND CONCERT TAKE PLACE? WHERE WILL I STAY IF I WIN?

Locations for 2018 have not yet been finalized. The 2017 workshop was held at the University of Minnesota School of Music with the performance at [The Lab Theater](#) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The NextNotes composers were also housed on the University of Minnesota for the duration of the June 2017 workshop period.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF NEXTNOTES?

The purpose of *NextNotes* is to: encourage and recognize the creativity of high school composers (students grades 9-12); award outstanding talent with mentorship and a performance of their work by professional musicians and scholarship funds; bring fresh relevance and ownership to the word *composer*; and raise awareness of the American Composers Forum.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you've read the [Guidelines](#) and the [FAQ](#) (found at www.NextNotes.org) and still have questions, you may contact Laura Krider at the American Composers Forum to learn more. (651) 251-2840 or lkriders@composersforum.org

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