



2020 American Composers Forum *NextNotes*[®] High School Music Creator Awards

The American Composers Forum (ACF) is calling all musicians to the sixth annual **American Composers Forum *NextNotes*[®] High School Music Creator Awards**. *NextNotes* is a national program designed to nurture the next generation of creative voices in music – in any style! This is your all-expenses-paid opportunity to work with mentors, get a performance and recording of your music, win \$1,000 for continued growth, and more.

NextNotes rewards and celebrates
Creativity | Originality | Skill | Potential | Risk-taking | Bravery | Passion

Whether you create for voices, electronics or instruments, are a singer/songwriter or improviser, hip-hop artist or sound designer... if you create original, creative music and are in high school, we want you to apply! Not sure where to start or have questions? Reach out to Laura Krider at lkriders@composersforum.org.

PROGRAM DETAILS AND SCHEDULE:

- Entries must be submitted electronically via SlideRoom by 11:59pm CST, Monday, January 6, 2020.
 - Apply here: <https://americancomposersforum.slideroom.com/>
- Entries will be evaluated by a panel of professional artists with diverse musical backgrounds.
- Finalists will be notified of their status by April 13, 2020, and will be asked at that time to submit the following documents:
 - *NextNotes* Release for Use of Photo, Audio and Video
 - *NextNotes* Code of Conduct
 - *NextNotes* Emergency Contact/Medical Information
 - *NextNotes* Release from Liability

If ACF staff is unable to reach a Finalist within 24 hours or the listed documents are not received by ACF staff within 48 hours of notification, the applicant will be disqualified, and an alternate awardee will be selected.

- The names of the *NextNotes* Creators will be announced by the end of the day on April 20, 2020.
- Each *NextNotes* Creator will have the opportunity to virtually work with a mentor to refine their piece in May 2020.
- The six *NextNotes* Creators will be flown to Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota for a two-day workshop that will take place on Friday and Saturday, June 26-27, 2020 (with flights on June 25 and 28).
- The awards ceremony and culminating concert will take place on the evening of June 27, 2020. **NOTE: Participation in the workshop/concert is mandatory for the six *NextNotes* Creators.**

AWARDS:

In addition to the mentorship, workshop and concert, each *NextNotes* Composer will:

- Receive a scholarship of \$1,000 to be used for music creation studies to be applied towards one experience such as a summer program or a semester of individual instruction. ACF will pay the funds directly to the educator or institution and they must be used within 18 months of notification of the award.*
- Receive an archival recording of the culminating concert.

- Receive Finale® notation software for continued creation and experimentation.
- Be eligible to nominate an influential music educator to receive a one-year SmartMusic Educator Subscription for classroom use.
- Be eligible to receive up to \$500 in “bring it home” funds to share their achievement with their hometown. These funds may be used to present the winning piece (i.e. hire musicians or sound technicians for a public concert), prep a digital release of an awardees music, etc. *NextNotes* Creators may request funds, use of which must be approved by ACF. ACF will pay the funds directly to the performers, venues, sound technicians, CD duplication company, etc., who are hired to present the music of the *NextNotes* Creators and they must be used within 12 months of notification of the award.

*Co-creators will split the scholarship funds (\$500 each) and the bring-it-home funds (\$250 each), but all other parts of the award remain as listed.

Up to 30 of the applicants will be selected as “Honorable Mention” and will receive written feedback from the evaluators.

All applicants who submit all required materials and are considered eligible applicants will receive a free one-year American Composers Forum student membership and a free one-year subscription to Noteflight Premium.

ACF encourages applicants from the full range of musical styles, and is committed to supporting a diverse pool of artists whose work demonstrates a strong original voice. Accordingly, awards for our programs will represent, as far as possible, artists and projects that are diverse in genre, gender, race, ethnicity and geography.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

Who Can Enter:

- Applicants who are at least 14 years old OR enrolled in 9th grade, and not older than 18 years old OR in 12th grade (or home-school grade equivalents) by September 30, 2019, are eligible. (A 14-year-old 8th grader, a 13-year-old 9th grader, a 17-year-old college student, and a 19-year-old 12th grader are all eligible to apply.)
- Applicants must be living in the 50 United States at the time of the workshop and concert.
- Applicants must be available to attend events in Minneapolis-St. Paul on June 26-27, 2020. Travel expenses to and from, and food/accommodations in Minneapolis-St. Paul will be covered by ACF, as will the costs of the workshop, concert, mentors and supervisory counselors.
- Applicants do not have to be formally studying composition and/or music to be eligible.
- 2019 *NextNotes* Winners are not eligible to apply.
- Employees and board members of ACF and their immediate families may not apply to this program.
- You do not have to be a member of ACF to apply.

Entry Details:

- There is no fee to apply.
- Applicants will submit a single, original, musical piece in any genre or style. These pieces must be no more than 10 minutes in length and, if they are written for performers, must be for small band/ensemble (no more than 8 live performers). Acceptable entries may include (but are not limited to) works for: recorded electronics, voice and guitar, string quartet, solo piano, brass quintet, live electronic performance, instrumental ensemble with electronic backing track, percussion ensemble, etc.

- Applications must be submitted electronically via the following link:
<https://americancomposersforum.slideroom.com/>
- Each applicant will submit only one piece for consideration in the program. If more than one piece is submitted, only the first entry will be considered.
- Pieces co-created by two people will be considered if both creators are eligible applicants. If the piece is co-created by two creators, their piece must be the sole creation of their collaboration and the two creators will be treated as a single applicant (e.g., if Adam Crawford and Brenda Reyes write a piece together, they together are considered a single applicant, and neither may apply with any other entry.)
- Pieces created by more than two people, groups, etc., are not eligible.
- If the applicant partnered with a lyricist to create the piece, but created the music on their own, only the person who created the music is eligible to apply.
- Pieces must be original and the sole creation of the applicant or pair of applicants. Pieces must not be plagiarized or violate copyright laws.
- If the piece includes a produced backing track of beats or other music, it must be the original creation of the applicant or pair of applicants.
- If text/lyrics/words are used, proof of public domain or author's written permission for use of text is required.

Entry Materials:

In addition to the written information requested online, each applicant will be asked to submit ONE or BOTH of the following:

- An audio recording (up to 30 MB) or video (up to 60 MB) of entry, no more than 10 minutes in duration. Recording does not have to be professional quality, MIDI realizations are accepted, but they must be converted to another audio format. Submissions will not be judged on the quality of the recording. Acceptable audio formats are: .mp3, .wma, .ogg, .flac, YouTube, Vimeo, and SoundCloud
- A PDF (up to 10 MB) score of entry. Handwritten scores are accepted, provided they have been scanned and submitted in PDF form. If an applicant chooses to ONLY submit a score, it must be related to the type of music created (graphic notation (i.e., representation of music through the use of visual symbols), lead sheet, "standard" notation, etc.)
- If applicable, proof of public domain or author's/publishers written permission for use of text.

Application Deadline, Award, and General Information:

Applications must be submitted electronically on or before 11:59pm CST, January 6, 2020.

All performance, copyright, and royalty rights of the winning pieces remain with the creators.

- The decision of the *NextNotes* panel will be final.
- The finalists will be announced by April 20, 2020 and posted on the ACF website.
- Scholarship funds must be used for one musical creation study program within 18 months of the notification of receipt of the award. If not used within 18 months, award funds will be forfeited. These funds will be made payable directly to the selected educator or institution.
- "Bring it home" funds must be used for one event/project within twelve months of the notification of the award.
- No form of cheating or, in the case of *NextNotes* Creators, violation of the Code of Conduct, will be tolerated. Any persons found cheating or otherwise violating the rules, as determined in the sole discretion of ACF, will be immediately disqualified from the program. *NextNotes* Creators who are found to have

violated the Code of Conduct during their time in Minneapolis/St. Paul will immediately be sent home and any expenses incurred by doing so will be the responsibility of the *NextNotes* Creator or their parent/guardian.

- For additional information about *NextNotes*, read the *NextNotes* FAQ at www.NextNotes.org. ACF reserves the right to modify or update the Guidelines and FAQ at any time and will have no obligation to announce or publicize such additions or clarifications.

KEY EVALUATION CRITERIA:

A panel of five professional music creators with diverse musical backgrounds will review all submissions through a multi-round review process. Pieces will be evaluated according to these broad criteria: Originality, Creative Potential, Overall Musical Effect, Technique, and Impact on the artist and their work if selected for *NextNotes*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INQUIRES CONTACT:

Laura Krider
Director of Education & Community Partnerships
American Composers Forum
651.251.2840
lkriders@composersforum.org

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The American Composers Forum (ACF) enriches lives by nurturing the creative spirit of composers and communities. Through commissions, grants, mentorships, performances, publications, residencies, and hosted gatherings, we provide innovative opportunities for composers and their music to flourish, and we link communities and composers through creation, connection, and engagement. ACF facilitates an ecosystem that reflects the diversity of our world, and we partner with a variety of creative musicians and organizations to develop the next generation of new music creators, performers, and advocates. Visit www.composersforum.org for more information.