WASHINGTON 2016-17

MUSIC COMPOSITION is the process of creating a new piece of music. The *composer* (student submitting entry) is a person who expresses their own thoughts and ideas through the use of sound. The student composer may submit an entry performed by an individual or group and/or make use of a sound library generated performance of a composed score. Student composers are not required to perform their composition. *Middle and high school grade divisions require music score/tablature/notation, either traditional or tablature.*

Reflect on the 2016-2017 Theme: *What Is Your Story?*

Submission Rules/Requirements:
- Only new and original music compositions inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the work of one student only.
- Audio recording must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.
- Accepted audio file formats include: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC (M4A), and FLAC. Save as a FILE and NOT a movie.
- Label CD/USB Drive with your student name, title of artwork, category, grade division, PTA name and number.
- Notation is required for middle school and high school divisions only. See below for notation requirements.
- Original signed and completed student entry form should be securely affixed to the front of the re-closeable manila envelope in a sheet protector or plastic sleeve. Student entry form must be accessible. DO NOT use re-sealable bags (i.e. Ziplocs).
- **Music Composition entries (CD or USB) may not be returned by WSPTA!**

Notation & Score Required for Middle School & High School divisions only. Notation software may be used to create a score. Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance. Number each page. Print on 8.5x11 (one sided only) or save/scan score as a single PDF.

Consider the following musical styles and instruments to portray your original composition: A cappella, blues, choral, country, electronic, hip hop, jazz, world music, musical, orchestral, pop, R&B, religious, rock, symphonic/concert band and traditional.

All instruments, sounds, styles and combinations are accepted. Software may be used to produce an audio recording that does not include commercially pre-programmed imported MIDI or other source files. Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted. An explanation of the origin of the music and/or the significance of the music style might be a useful addition to the artist statement when submitting a music composition that involves traditional, cultural or regional instruments. Whether an entry displays formal composition technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.

Ideas for Audio Quality: Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument(s) or speakers. Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Record a short test and listen to it. If needed, change the record volume or microphone location. Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.