



The [Wisconsin Alliance for Composers](#) (WAC) is accepting submissions for its annual Student Composition Contest. Prizes include cash awards and live performances at the WAC New Music Festival to be held at UW Whitewater on Sunday, March 1st 2026.

Application Form [\[https://forms.gle/5mhhpisTErVvq5mq8\]](https://forms.gle/5mhhpisTErVvq5mq8)

Categories and Prizes

Applicants are invited to submit original compositions for 1-4 performers in one of the following categories:

- Elementary (grades K-5). Prize: \$25 cash award and performance at WAC New Music Festival
- Middle School (grades 6-8). Prize: \$50 cash award and performance at WAC New Music Festival
- High School (grades 9-12). Prize: \$75 cash award and performance at WAC New Music Festival
- Undergraduate College. Prize: \$100 cash award and performance at WAC New Music Festival

The judges may choose one or more honorable mentions for each category. Honorable mentions will receive a performance at the WAC New Music Festival.

Contest Rules

- Applicants must be residents of Wisconsin or studying full time in Wisconsin.
- Each applicant may submit **one** composition.
- Applicants must submit to the category corresponding to their grade during the 2025-26 school year.
- Compositions must be for 1-4 performers. Electronic music compositions that exist solely as an audio file are also accepted, as are pieces that include electronics as part of live performance.
- Submissions must be original compositions. Arrangements and transcriptions are not accepted.
- Judges' decisions are final. Judges may elect to award no prize in any category.
- See additional notes about duration and instrumentation below.

2026 WAC New Music Festival

- The winning students and honorable mentions are encouraged to attend the WAC New Music Festival at UW Whitewater on Sunday, March 1st, 2026, to be recognized and receive their award. The specific concert time is TBD. The concert will be live-streamed.
- Winning students and honorable mentions are encouraged to perform their own compositions at the WAC New Music Festival. If students prefer not to or are unable to perform their own composition, WAC will attempt to arrange for a performance by professional or university student musicians; however, this is not guaranteed, and accommodations may need to be made for atypical ensembles or to fit longer works on the concert program.
- Festival performances of winning works and honorable mentions will be recorded. Students will receive an audio recording of their performance.

Submission Requirements

- Submissions must be received by **Monday, November 3rd, 2025**.
- All materials must be submitted using this [application form](#).
- Submit **one (1)** legible musical score as a PDF. Scores may be computer-notated or hand-written.
- Scores must be submitted **anonymously**. Do not include the student's or teacher's name on the score. The only identifying information on the score should be the composition's title.
- MP3 audio recordings of a live performance or computer realization are encouraged, but not required.
- An MP3 file must be submitted for compositions that exist solely as an audio file and do not utilize acoustic instruments (e.g., electronic music compositions). A score is not required for these compositions.
- Compositions that use text must be accompanied by a written statement signed by the student and teacher affirming one of the following statements: 1) the submission includes an original text written by the applicant, 2) the text is in the public domain, or 3) the text's copyright holder has granted permission to use the text in the composition.

Email Jeff Herriott (herriotj@uww.edu) with any questions.