Fifteenth Annual Collegiate COMPOSITION CONTEST

Award

- **First Prize: $500**
  Professional performance at the March 17, 2027 concert presented by the Cleveland Composers Guild.
  Audio and video recording of the live performance
- **Second Prize $300**
- **Third Prize $150**

If no entries, or too few entries, are deemed worthy, the Cleveland Composers Guild reserves the right to award some or none of the prizes.

Guidelines

Who:

- The following composers may apply:
  - Full-time undergraduates in any major who are studying in any college, university, or conservatory in northeast Ohio
  - Students between ages 18 and 25 residing permanently in northeast Ohio who are actively studying composition but are not enrolled in a graduate or full-time undergraduate program, if recommended by their composition teacher
- Students enrolled in a graduate program are not considered eligible.
- Work by applicants residing outside northeast Ohio will not be considered.
  - "Northeast Ohio" is considered any location with a ZIP Code with the first three numbers 440 through 449.

What: Vocal or instrumental compositions 10 minutes or less in duration set for any combination of up to four voices and instruments (limit one piano). For vocal works, composers are responsible for demonstrating permission to set and perform texts not in the public domain; original and public domain texts are strongly encouraged.

Score & Format: Each composer must submit a legible score, in PDF format only. No other file format will be accepted. The duration of the work must appear on the score. No marks identifying the composer may appear anywhere on the score. If submitting a recording with your score, please include a single file in mp3 format; MIDI realizations are acceptable, but should be submitted as mp3 files. No marks identifying the composer may appear anywhere on this media. Only electronic applications will be accepted – no hard copies!

Preparing your entry: Label your files with a pseudonym (don't use your real name on your score). Fill out the application form, and save it as a PDF file. Give your files names in the following convention:

- **Score:** Your_pseudonym_Score.pdf
- **Application form:** Your_pseudonym_Application.pdf
- **Recording (optional):** Your_pseudonym.mp3

- **Text Permission Form (vocal works only):** Your_pseudonym_Permission.pdf

Number of entries: Each composer may submit only one work.

Entry: There is no fee required to enter this competition.

Please Note: You may not enter the contest if:

- the composer is not enrolled in a Northeast Ohio college, university, or conservatory as an undergraduate
- the submitted work has been professionally recorded for commercial CD release
- the submitted work has been professionally published
- the submitted work has already been given a professional performance (student performances acceptable and encouraged)

DEADLINE: Entries must be received by THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2026.

Judging: an independent panel consisting of one Cleveland Composers Guild member, one Ohio-based composer, and one composer based outside Ohio will judge the scores. Comments will not be provided.

Winners will be announced in January 2026.

E-mail entries as attachments to:

The Cleveland Composers Guild
Chris Neiner, Chairman
clecomposers@gmail.com

For further information or questions, contact us by e-mail at clecomposers@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing your work!

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Application Form

Composer's Name: _____

Pseudonym: _____

Title of Composition: _____

Author/Source of Text: _____ Public Domain? **Y** ☐ ☐ **N**

Instrumentation: _____ Includes Piano? **Y** ☐ ☐ **N**

Duration: _____

Local Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

College/Conservatory/University: _____

Composer Signature: _____

Signature of Faculty Member: _____

I, _____

(please print name, phone, and e-mail address above)

am on the faculty where the applicant attends college/conservatory/university. I warrant that I am familiar with the submitted composition and know it to be solely the work of the applicant.

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Text Permission Form

Composer's Name: _____

Pseudonym: _____

Title of Composition: _____

Author/Source of Text: _____Public Domain? ☐ **Y** ☐ **N**

Year of United States Publication: _____

Complete the Following if Text is Not Public Domain*:

Full Title of Text: _____

I am using (circle one) **PART** ☐ **ALL** ☐ of the original text.

Publisher: _____ Publisher Mailing Address:_____

_____

Signature of Author/Author's Representative: _____

I, _____

(please print name, phone, and e-mail address above)

hereby give permission to the above named composer to create a musical setting of the above named text and for that setting to be performed in a public concert.

*Most material published in the United States in 1930 or earlier is considered to be in the public domain. Any similar statement signed by the author or publisher of non-public domain text will be considered in lieu of this form.