



# PTA® Reflections

## Music Composition Rules

RICHARDSON ISD COUNCIL  
**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.\*

**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 themselves. *Middle and high school grade divisions require music score/tablatore/notation, either traditional or tablatore.*

### 2020-2021 Theme: *I Matter Because...*

**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.

**Originality:** Only new and original songs inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the work of one student only.

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

**Presentation:** Audio must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size. Videos are not accepted.

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.

**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. Do not mount or bind the scores.

**Judging:** Entries will be judged on mastery of the medium (worth 8 points), artistic merit (worth 12 points), and interpretation of the theme (worth 20 points). Mastery of the medium in the context of the national Reflections Program pertains to the level of skill the student displays, whether it be formal composition technique or a simple approach. However, a well-developed concept is more important than technique. Entries will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. Many times, the artist statement will make a huge difference during judging because this is where the artist can explain in their own words, their thoughts and feelings for their piece. An explanation of the origin of the music and/or the significance of the music style might be a useful addition to the statement when submitting a music composition that involves traditional, cultural or regional instruments.

### Packaging:

- Send digitally to your local PTA along with the entry form.

### Submission Requirements:

- It is not required to be a member of the PTA, but if the student advances to the district level, the student or at least one person from their primary household must have been a current member of the Local PTA.
- Each Local PTA may determine a date by which the member must join.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Cite background music (if any) on the student entry form.

***All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.***

**THE LOCAL (SCHOOL) PTA MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION BEFORE ADVANCING**

Verify household membership and complete partial or illegible entry forms. **CORRECT** and **COMPLETE CONTACT INFORMATION** is **VERY** important as the entry progresses so the family receives information about possible awards and ceremonies.

School PTA Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Household Membership Verified by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Joined: \_\_\_\_\_

**Local (School) PTA must attain Active Status with Texas PTA by October 31<sup>st</sup>**
 PTA has reported at least 20 members to Texas PTA       Board Member Information Reported to Texas PTA

Please type or print clearly in black or blue ink (do not use pencil). This form must be completed in its entirety.

If additional space is needed, please continue onto the back or a separate sheet of paper and clearly mark with your full name.

**The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Encourage members to join before judging begins.**

 REQUIRED PTA MEMBER NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ CHOOSE ONE:  Current Member/Date Joined: \_\_\_\_\_

 Please contact me! We need to join.

The best way to contact me is by: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEACHER EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Ownership in any submission shall remain the property of the entrant, but entry into this program constitutes entrant's irrevocable permission and consent that PTA may display, copy, reproduce, enhance, print, sublicense, publish, distribute and create derivative works for PTA purposes. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged entries. Submission of entry into the PTA Reflections program constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions. I agree to the above statement and the National PTA Reflections Official Rules.

 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of student

 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of parent/legal guardian (required if child is under 18 years)

**JUDGING INFORMATION**
**GRADE DIVISION (Check One)**
 PRIMARY (Preschool- Grade 2)     HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)

 INTERMEDIATE (Grades 3-5)     SPECIAL ARTIST\* (All Grades)

 MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6-8)

**ARTS CATEGORY (Check One)**
 DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

 MUSIC COMPOSITION

 FILM PRODUCTION

 PHOTOGRAPHY

 LITERATURE

 VISUAL ARTS

\*Please refer to the Special Artist Guidelines if you believe your entry qualifies for this division.

Special Artist entrants should select both their grade division and the Special Artist box.

TITLE OF ARTWORK (REQUIRED): \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY DETAILS: (Dance/Film: cite background music; Music: musician(s)/instrumentation; Literature: word count; Photo/Visual Arts: materials &amp; dimensions) \_\_\_\_\_

**ARTIST STATEMENT (REQUIRED):** Statement must be 10- 100 words describing how your work relates to the theme. \*Many times, the artist statement will make a huge difference during judging because this is where you as the artist can explain in your own words, your thoughts and feelings for the piece.

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