

Composer's Today Evaluations Rules and General Information

Student and teacher compositions and film scores are evaluated by two composers giving the student, or teacher, good feedback for polishing the composition.

For the evaluations of compositions, all manuscripts must be done entirely by the composer, either by hand or computer. Teachers or parents may not write out the composition no matter how young the composer! (Exception: Category 5 and 6 may engage copyists or computer notation experts as needed).

Measures must be numbered. Begin with the first complete measure.

The student can create Program Notes about the piece. These are entered on the application form online, not attached to the manuscripts as before.

Film scores do not require written notation.

Evaluators will give an overall rating of from 1-5 for each piece, write constructive and positive comments on the piece and give ratings of **O** = Outstanding, **G** = Good, **N** = Needs Improvement, and **NA** = Not applicable for the following areas:

For Compositions:	For Film Scores:
Creativity Rating	Creativity Rating
Melodic interest	Melodic interest
Harmonic interest	Harmonic interest
Rhythmic interest	Rhythmic interest
Construction	Construction
Form	Scene Spotting Choices
Melody	Effectiveness of Cues
Rhythm	Free Timing if Applicable
Chord voicing	Synchronization Points
Harmonic Progression	Overlapping Cues
Phrase Construction	Orchestration
Counterpoint	Overall Atmosphere
20 th Century Techniques	Appropriateness of Style

Balance of unity and variety	Underscoring Dialogue
Notation Skills	Style
Correctness	Motivic Unity Between Cues
Neatness	Attention to Details in Film
General	General
Expression marks	Variety of Expressions
Dynamic marks	Dynamic Balance
Originality	Originality
Metronome markings	Tempo Choices
Tempo indications (terms)	Cue Sheet Provided?
Suitability of title	Suitability of Music for Film

All applications are done online. For compositions you will have to make either a PDF file or a .doc file of the composition and an mp3 recording of the composition. (See below for more information about PDF files. Also, image files can be inserted into .doc files.) For films, a movie file will need to be generated in .mov or mpg4 format. If a film score is provided, it must be in PDF format or .doc. There are instructions and suggestions for making film scores in the Documents section of the Composer's Today teacher's page.

You will be asked for an email address for the student and the student's birth date, so you might want to have these available.

To find out what category your student will fall in and what the fees are for that category go to www.mtac.org, login with your teacher password, click on Composer's Today and then Categories and Fees.

To submit a composition:

1. Go to MTAC.org.
2. Login with your teacher password to get to your teacher page.
3. Click on Composer's Today and then Evaluations Applications.

Note that you can click on CT Evaluations Help (in blue toward the top of the page) for a list of instructions.

4. Follow the instructions on that page and subsequent pages.

PDF files:

If you have a PC you will need Acrobat to create a PDF. You can get a free trial version of Acrobat at https://www.adobe.com/cfusion/tdrc/index.cfm?product=acrobat_pro

which only lasts a few days. You can only do this once. Another place to find free/cheap converters to PDF is http://www.cnet.com/1770-5_1-0.html?query=pdf+convertors&tag=srch

To create a **PDF** document from a Finale file

1. **Open the file in Finale.**
2. **From the File menu, choose Print.** The Print dialog box appears.
3. **Click on Setup.** The Print Setup dialog box appears.
4. **From the Printer Name drop-down menu, choose "Acrobat Distiller" or "Acrobat PDF"** (or whatever Adobe **PDF** print driver is installed on your computer). Keep in mind, you'll need to switch the printer back to your regular printer when you're done creating **PDFs**.
5. **Click OK.** If your document has parts, select which ones you would like to print using the score/parts check boxes in the upper left. Adjust any other print settings (see [Printing](#)).
6. **Click OK.** Finale begins printing using the Acrobat Distiller. If Distiller is running in the background (you'll see it at the bottom of your screen in the Taskbar), it will immediately launch the Acrobat Distiller. Once the Distiller has launched, it will display a Save **PDF** File As dialog box.
7. **Give the file a name (you may wish to save it to the Desktop for convenience) and click Save.** The Acrobat Distiller creates a **PDF** of your file. Depending on your Distiller Assistant settings, it may open your newly created **PDF** file for viewing.

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