PENNSYLVANIA Symphonic Winds

Fourth Annual Composition Contest

Rules

- Contest open to all composers of any age, except members of the Pennsylvania Symphonic Winds (PSW), or relatives of PSW members
- Composer must not be a past winner / honorable mention recipient of previous PSW Contests over the past 3 years
- Composition must be the composer's original work (no arrangements permitted)
- Composition must be at least 5 minutes in length, not to exceed 10 minutes
- Composition must be at the Grade III, Grade IV, or Grade V level in difficulty
- Required instrumentation (you must adhere to the numbers of parts in parentheses below):
  - Piccolo (optional)
  - Flute (2 parts)
  - Oboe (1 or 2 parts)
  - Bassoon (1 or 2 parts)
  - Eb Soprano Clarinet (optional)
  - Clarinet (3 parts)
  - Eb Alto Clarinet (optional)
  - Bass Clarinet
  - Soprano Saxophone (optional)
  - Alto Saxophone (2 parts; 1 part if using soprano saxophone)
  - Tenor Saxophone
  - Baritone Saxophone
  - Trumpet (3 parts)
  - Horn (4 parts)
  - Trombone (3 parts)
  - Euphonium (divisi allowable)
  - Tuba (divisi allowable)
  - Percussion (3-5 parts)

Click here to apply!

Questions or concerns? Please email
compositioncontestpswinds@gmail.com

Submission Requirements

- Completion of the online contest entry form (click the link in the box above)
- A full score* in PDF format
- A recording* in MP3 format (notation software audio renderings are acceptable)
  - * as this is a blind contest, please do not include your name on or within either the PDF or MP3
- An entry fee of $25** (this helps to offset the cash prize for the winning composer(s) *and* support the PSW's mission as a band member-supported 501(c)(3) organization)
  - ** fee can be waived for composers demonstrating financial need

Deadline

- Entries are due Monday, 25 January 2027

Selection

- Entries will be judged by a panel of musicians from within the Pennsylvania Symphonic Winds
- The panel will select a winner from the submissions that are received

Prize

- The Pennsylvania Symphonic Winds will perform the winning composition in the Spring of 2026
- The winning composer will also be awarded a cash prize of $500
- Depending on the pool of applicants, additional prizes may be awarded at the judges' discretion

Contest funded in part by an Advancement of Music grant from The Presser Foundation