

2025-2026 Student Composition Contest
Contest Honorees

Junior Arranging

- 1st Place *Carol of the Bells* **by Elsie Wachter**, Springman Middle School
2nd Place *Town Talk* **by Lucca Mitchell**, Westfield Community School

Senior Arranging

- 1st Place *The Moon Theme* **by Kingsley Boatang**, Mahomet-Seymour High School
2nd Place *Xenoblade Suite* **by John Sydney**, University High School
3rd Place *Russian Song* **by Max Gillenwater**, St. Anthony High School
Honorable Mention *Grieg Sonata in E minor - 4th Movement* **by Benjamin Drucker**, Oak Park & River Forest High School
Honorable Mention *Yi Jian Mei (One Plum Blossom)* **by Vincent Lan**, Hinsdale Central High School
Honorable Mention *Go, Dance around the Mountain* **by Connor Omar**, Oswego High School

Junior Avant Garde/Electronic

- 1st Place *Sunrise* **by Jakob Wolff**, Urbana Middle School
2nd Place *Jester's Final Form* **by Louis Tonjes**, Sam Rotolo Middle School

Senior Avant Garde/Electronic

- 1st Place *The Crazy Man Who Cried NOTES* **by Lenny Lopez**, West Aurora High School
2nd Place *15 (Abridged Version)* **by Blake Jones**, Oak Lawn Community High School
3rd Place *Whispers* **by Tyne Mendell**, West Aurora High School
Honorable Mention *Gear Hulk* **by Aaron Alexander**, Kelly High School

Senior Commercial Instrumental

- 1st Place *Emblazoned Ambition* **by Nathan Cheng**, Adlai E. Stevenson High School
2nd Place *Only A Simple Chaos* **by Beau Luaders**, Liberty CUSD #2
3rd Place *Fragments From an Unwritten Journey* **by Matt Danison**, Oswego East High School
Honorable Mention *Our Old Times* **by Marc Clemons**, Rolling Meadows High School
Honorable Mention *Megaloceros Giganeus* **by Abigayle Cowan**, Auburn High School
Honorable Mention *Zitherfi'd* **by Bishop Montesa**, Glenbard East High School
Honorable Mention *Unknown* **by Collin Narens**, Adlai E. Stevenson High School
Honorable Mention *Path of Light* **by James Ransom**, Bloomington High School

Junior Electronic Dance Music

1st Place *Flowers* **by Jakob Wolff**, Urbana Middle School

Senior Electronic Dance Music

1st Place *Citromaniac* **by Nathan Cheng**, Adlai E. Stevenson High School
 2nd Place *i never gave this song a title* **by James Ransom**, Bloomington High School
 3rd Place *PLSGOD..._____ME??* **by Dean Dominowski**, Glenbard East High School
 Honorable Mention *Computer Kid* **by Roy Koerner**, Oak Park & River Forest High School

Junior Instrumental Small Ensemble

1st Place *Dance of the Ghouls* **by Ruhi Shinde**, Barrington Middle School - Prairie Campus
 2nd Place *Desolation Prelude* **by Patrick Tapins**, Kenyon Woods Middle School
 3rd Place *Cognoscere* **by Ari Falk**, Northbrook Junior High School

Senior Instrumental Small Ensemble

1st Place *Steps into the Mouse's Lair* **by Dash Wilson**, Victor J. Andrew High School
 2nd Place *The Thrush and the Sparrow* **by Erin Kastengren**, Waubonsie Valley High School
 3rd Place *String Trio* **by Ronan Weaver**, Pekin Community High School
 Honorable Mention *String Quartet in D* **by David Cha**, Glenbrook South High School
 Honorable Mention *Greater Chicago Fire* **by Noah Morgan**, DePaul College Prep
 Honorable Mention *Black Hills Suite* **by Wren Page**, Wheaton North High School

Senior Instrumental Solo

1st Place *Romanza* **by Brian Baron**, Joliet Central High School
 2nd Place *Vibrations* **by Noah Golden**, Adlai E Stevenson High School
 3rd Place *The Junco* **by Erin Kastengren**, Waubonsie Valley High School
 Honorable Mention *Aria and March* **by Benjamin Drucker**, Oak Park & River Forest High School
 Honorable Mention *Unimagined Places of the Mind* **by Blake Ferguson-Allen**, Dixon High School
 Honorable Mention *Prelude for Organ and Cello* **by Noah Morgan**, DePaul College Prep

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Junior Instrumental/Vocal Solo

- 1st Place *Afterhours* by **Holden Garcia**, Drauden Point Middle School
2nd Place *Rainstorm* by **Reese Vanderlaan**, Carlton W. Washburne School
3rd Place *Trumpet Sonata* by **Oliver Bradley**, Dunlap Middle School
Honorable Mention *The Timeless Sonata* by **Sebastian Malak**, Oliver W. Holmes Middle School

Senior Jazz Improvisation

- 1st Place *Winter in Song* by **Anthony Olague**, York Community High School
2nd Place *Chamusar* by **Blue Acevedo**, Evanston Township High School
3rd Place *Puppy Love* by **Olive Turner**, Glenbard East High School

Senior Jazz Instrumental or Vocal Ensemble

- 1st Place *Mantle Rush* by **Aaron Alexander**, Kelly High School
2nd Place *Funk a Tonk* by **Thomas Akemann**, Larkin High School
3rd Place *My Name is Charlie* by **Roy Koerner**, Oak Park & River Forest High School
Honorable Mention *Wish* by **Noah Chun**, Lake Zurich High School
Honorable Mention *Shades of Green* by **Jesus Madrigal**, West Aurora High School
Honorable Mention *Cheese Balls* by **Ashton Zopf**, Victor J. Andrew High School

Junior Keyboard Solo

- 1st Place *Birding Suite* by **Samuel Ehrman**, Barrington Middle School - Station Campus
2nd Place *The Legend of the Dragon* by **Sahyuru Kulugamma**, Hickory Creek Middle School
3rd Place *Atropa* by **Ruhi Shinde**, Barrington Middle School - Prairie Campus

Senior Keyboard Solo

- 1st Place *Morceau* by **Jonny Faust**, Highland Park High School
2nd Place *Chaconne in F Minor* by **Noah Chun**, Lake Zurich High School
3rd Place *March of the Finch* by **Erin Kastengren**, Waubonsie Valley High School
Honorable Mention *Sonata in B Minor* by **(Charles) Iain Blair**, Jones College Prep

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Senior Orchestra

1st Place	<i>Der Golem</i> by Aaron Alexander , Kelly High School
2nd Place	<i>Symphony No. 2</i> by Justin Upton , Matea Valley High School
3rd Place	<i>Composition for Chamber Orchestra</i> by Noah Chun , Lake Zurich High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Symphony 2 in E Minor - I</i> by Luca Cangelosi , Crystal Lake South High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Concertino for Piano and Orchestra</i> by David Cha , Glenbrook South High School
Honorable Mention	<i>The Raven</i> by Erin Kastengren , Waubonsie Valley High School

Junior Rap/Hip-Hop

1st Place	<i>Limelight</i> by Nicholas Grande , Oak Prairie Junior High School
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Senior Rap/Hip Hop

1st Place	<i>Ram Squad</i> by Dean Dominowski , Glenbard East High School
2nd Place	<i>Let It All Go</i> by Ray Sanders , Oswego East High School
3rd Place	<i>Tipo Yamal</i> by Enrico Moreira Egidio , Neuqua Valley High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Not a Player</i> by Isaiah Cardona , Glenbard East High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Better Days</i> by Rajeeth Ganesan , Normal Community High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Without You - Volume 2</i> by Tyler Houston , Freeport High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Velvet Memories</i> by Xavier Williams , University of Chicago Lab School

Junior Remix

1st Place	<i>"Comeback" Remix</i> by Hunter Carlson , Twin Groves Middle School
2nd Place	<i>"Comeback" Remix</i> by Layan Shouman , Oak Prairie Junior High School
3rd Place	<i>"Comeback" Remix</i> by Gracilyn Onate , Oak Prairie Junior High School
Honorable Mention	<i>"Comeback" Remix</i> by Sloane McCarter , Oak Prairie Junior High School

Senior Remix

1st Place	<i>Comeback to me Now</i> by Ambrose Franklin , Oak Park & River Forest High School
2nd Place	«« <i>COME.BACK(crossheart.flip)</i> »» by Dean Dominowski , Glenbard East High School
3rd Place	<i>Come back</i> by Caleb Johnson , Yorkville High School
Honorable Mention	<i>“Comeback” Remix</i> by Enrico Moreira Egidio , Neuqua Valley High School
Honorable Mention	<i>“Comeback”</i> by Julian Pekarek , O’Fallon Township High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Comeback (Botanica Drone Mix)</i> by James Ransom , Bloomington High School

Senior Rock Band

1st Place	<i>All About You</i> by Devin Smego , York Community High School
2nd Place	<i>Perfectionism</i> by Vivaswan Deshpande , produced by Gideon Felabom , Adlai E Stevenson High School
3rd Place - Tie	<i>Nascence</i> by Rajeeth Ganesan , Normal Community High School
3rd Place - Tie	<i>Flicker</i> by Talia Spector , Niles West High School
Honorable Mention	<i>APORIA</i> by Gideon Felabom & Vivaswan Deshpande , Adlai E Stevenson High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Your Face</i> by Joquin Leon , Evanston Township High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Strange Angles</i> by Myles Moore, Cainan Becker, Hudson Bauscher & Wesley Loring , Freeport High School

Senior Singer/Songwriter

1st Place	<i>lost</i> by Jack Bricker , York Community High School
2nd Place	<i>Willow’s Bend</i> by Willa Zatzbloom , Waubonsie Valley High School
3rd Place	<i>Brighter Days (LTE)</i> by Tessa Schultz , York Community High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Like You Always Do</i> by Everett Creek , O’Fallon Township High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Survivor Girl</i> by Hailey Haiges , Huntley High School
Honorable Mention	<i>It’s All Wrong, But It’s Alright</i> by Jack Klinger , Keith Country Day School
Honorable Mention	<i>Leave That City</i> by Annabelle Langas , Glenbrook South High School
Honorable Mention	<i>whatever</i> by Brendon Meyer , Oswego High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Gone</i> by Michaela Plude , Oak Lawn Community High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Cordial</i> by Ariana Purl , West Aurora High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Left in the Dark</i> by Kai Ramsay , York Community High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Holding On (For Dear Life)</i> by Jillian Ritter , Belleville High School
Honorable Mention	<i>Known Better</i> by Annika Sherman , Oak Park & River Forest High School

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Senior Singer/Songwriter (continued)

- Honorable Mention *US99* by **Briley Steffes**, Downers Grove North High School
Honorable Mention *Sickness* by **Elizabeth Storozhuk**, Adlai E Stevenson High School
Honorable Mention *Losing You* by **Franco Torres**, Plano High School
Honorable Mention *places we couldn't go* by **Olive Turner**, Glenbard East High School
Honorable Mention *Gold and Silver* by **Luke Wagner**, Homewood-Flossmoor High School

Senior Vocal Ensemble

- 1st Place *Acheinu* by **Jonny Faust**, Highland Park High School
2nd Place *Strigiformes* by **Erin Kastengren**, Waubonsie Valley High School
3rd Place *Evermore* by **Caitlin Hill**, Plainfield East High School
Honorable Mention *Tyger Tyger* by **Mark Hanley**, Neuqua Valley High School
Honorable Mention *Kyrie* by **Noah Morgan**, DePaul College Prep
Honorable Mention *Oh, Freedom* by **Justice Rawlinson**, Carterville High School
Honorable Mention *Ubi Caritas* by **Jaxon Wittenmyer**, Hillsboro High School

Senior Vocal Solo

- 1st Place *King of Kings* by **Vincent Lan**, Hinsdale Central High School

Senior Wind Band

- 1st Place *The Grand Outback* by **Rohan Kumar**, Neuqua Valley High School
2nd Place *Soar* by **Kingsley Boatang**, Mahomet-Seymour High School
3rd Place *Radiant Thunderclouds* by **Joey Gagliano**, Plainfield South High School
Honorable Mention *Futility* by **Jackie Moore**, Jacksonville High School
Honorable Mention *Nightshade*, by **Dash Wilson**, Victor J. Andrew High School