



Ruth Brush Composition Competition RULES

The Ruth Brush Composition Competition, named for and endowed by a long-time Musical Research Club member, recognizes Bartlesville Public School students who demonstrate excellence in writing original music.

Awards are given to:

- One student in grades 9–12
- One student in grades 6–8

Competition Guidelines

- Students may write for solo instrument, accompanied solo, or ensemble, using instruments and/or voices.
- The composition must be performable at the Musical Research Scholarship Concert in May, should it be selected as a winner. It is the responsibility of the composer to secure musicians for the performance.
- Length: no less than 1 minute and no more than 3 minutes
- Scores must include tempo markings, meter, key signatures, dynamics, and articulations sufficient for performance.
- The composition must be the student's original work (no arrangements other than the optional compositional framework below), not previously published, publicly performed, or submitted to another competition prior to this competition deadline.
- The composition must be written by the student without the use of generative AI or third-party composition services.

Optional Composition Framework

Students may choose to compose a melody over an existing accompaniment.

- Using one of the following works as an accompaniment, write an original melody for voice or instrument.
See Bach–Gounod's "Ave Maria" as an example of this compositional approach.
 - J.S. Bach – *Prelude No. 1 in C Major, BWV 846 (The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I)*
 - J.S. Bach – *Prelude No. 21 in B♭ Major, BWV 866 (The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I)*
 - F. Chopin – *Prelude in A Major, Op. 28, No. 7*
- The accompaniment may not be altered in any way

Submission Requirements

- Scores must be created using music notation software.
(Handwritten scores will not be accepted.)
- Transposed scores are preferred for instruments that do not read at concert pitch.
- All identifying information must be removed from the submitted score.
- All materials must be submitted on or before **April 23, 2026**.
- The judging rubric is available on the MRS website.

Submission Checklist

- Completed Entry Form
- Final composition in PDF format
- Anonymous version of the score in PDF format
- Audio recording of the composition *(live performance or computer-generated; MP3 or MIDI preferred)*
- Optional: A brief composer statement may be submitted, describing intent, influences, or approach. *This will not be scored or factored into the judging of the composition.*

Awards

- Grade 9–12 winner: \$200 prize
- Grade 6–8 winner: \$100 prize
- Both winners will receive a performance slot at the May Scholarship Concert.

Disclaimers and Notices

- Judges reserve the right to withhold an award if no submission meets the standard.
- In the event of a tie, judges may select co-winners or break the tie at their discretion.
- By submitting, the student grants permission for the Musical Research Club to perform, record, and program the winning composition for educational and promotional purposes, with composer credit.