

A decorative graphic at the top of the page featuring white musical notes and staves on a blue background.

ISA Music Composition Competition

Students at ISA Members' schools are invited
to explore their musical talents by
composing an original piece

Open to Key Stages 2-5
All musical styles welcome
All details and entry form on the ISA website

DEADLINE
Thursday 9 May 2024

- Eligibility

This competition is open to ISA Members' schools only. Schools can submit a maximum of three entries per age category.

At ISA, we are committed to making our opportunities accessible, we welcome applications from all pupils, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities.

Alternative formats of these guidelines are available on request. Please allow us enough notice to provide the document accordingly if required.

- Categories and age groups

- Solo Instrument
- Instrumental Group
- Instrument & Voice

- Key Stage 2
- Key Stage 3
- Key Stage 4-5

- Rules

- Any style of music is welcome.
- There is no limit in group sizes.
- Use of music production software is allowed.
- The maximum length of composition is 5 mins (no minimum).
- Entries must include a video or audio recording of the piece being played.
- Students have the option to submit a written or computer-generated score if they wish to support their entry.
- You may use any instrument you choose, including computer generated sound - conventional or not – i.e., a piano, guitar, or even kitchen utensils. Be as creative as you like.
- Entries with lyrics can be written in any language, provided an English translation is given.
- Paired or group compositions may be submitted to any age class. These may be judged separately from the individual works. Students submitting group work must be from within the same key stage.
- It is possible to submit a composition written for an external exam.

- How to enter

- Entries must be submitted via the entry form on the ISA website by **Thursday 9 May 2024** at the latest.
- Recordings must be submitted with a URL link only (YouTube, Vimeo etc. without password required). No files to download. Please ensure the link is working otherwise ISA won't be able to accept the entry.
- Recordings must be complete at the time of entry, URL links for the entry must be available for public view with no password or log in details required. Recordings must not be amended or edited after submission.
- Any computer-generated score should be sent in a visual/readable format – e.g. JPG.
- Manuscripts (handwritten or computer generated) should be sent as full score (there is no need to generate individual playing parts) in a visual/readable format – e.g. JPG.
- Copyright: the music must be an original piece, not an arrangement.
- The copyright ownership of the piece is retained by the composer.
- Staff must confirm that all work submitted is the student's own.

The organisers of the competition reserve the right to publish winning entries, on the ISA website or in the ISA Journal and social media.

- Judging criteria

- Overall effectiveness of the piece in portraying the message or emotion.
- Suitability of the composition for the chosen instrument(s)
- Demonstrating good musical understanding, including awareness of musical conventions, rhythm, melody, harmony, structure, and compositional devices
- Technical control and coherence
- Show an understanding of the chosen style/genre.

If you have any questions, please contact isaarts@isaschools.org.uk

We look forward to receiving your entries.