

FLORIDA BANDMASTER ASSOCIATION

Young Composers Competition

ELIGIBILITY

- This contest is open to any composer age 30 or younger as of July 1, 2025
- Participation and entry are free

REQUIREMENTS

- Submit an original composition written for the Concert Band
- Level of difficulty – Grade I, II, or III – suitable for a young band
- Length of work should be no more than 6 minutes in duration

ENTRY MATERIALS

- Full score in PDF format
 - Do not list your name on the score or audio file
- Include: Title and Duration of the composition
- Digital audio recording of the composition (MIDI renderings are acceptable)
- Age verification
- Signed Entry Form
- Short written description of the composition outlining inspirations and important features
- Submit via Google Docs

JUDGING

- A panel of highly qualified judges will select the winning composition to be announced at the Florida Music Educators State Conference in Tampa, Florida in January 2026
- Scores will be judged based upon artistic quality, significant structural, analytical, technical quality, and skill in orchestration and scoring

AWARD:

- \$1,500
- It is our intention that the winning composition will be performed at the 2027 FMEA Conference, but we cannot guarantee that this will happen.
- Travel stipend to attend the rehearsals and performance of the composition
- All compositions that are named finalists will be listed in The Florida Music Director

ENTRY DEADLINE:

December 15, 2025

**Completed application and score in PDF form with mp3 must be submitted by
December 15, 2025**

Send all materials to:

Florida Bandmasters Association – Commissioning Committee
Josh Hobbs – Young Composers Competition Chair
joshhobbsmusic@gmail.com

FMEA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Harry Pardee, *President* • Bernie Hendricks Jr., *President-Elect*
Jason Locker, *Immediate Past President*

FBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jeff Cayer., *President* • Michael Antmann, *President-Elect*
Bernie Hendricks Jr., *Immediate Past President* • Ashley Crosby, *JH/MS Representative*
Neil Jenkins, *Executive Director*

FBA COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE

Erin Bodnar, *Chair* • Josh Hobbs, *Chair – Young Composer’s Contest*

Erin Bodnar – Director of Bands, University of North Florida
Brian Dell – Director of Bands, H.B. Plant High School
Victoria Donahoo – University of Central Florida
Josh Hobbs – Director of Bands, J.W. Mitchell High School
Tremon Kizer – Associate Director of Bands, University of Central Florida
Matthew McCutchen – Director of Bands, University of South Florida
Emily Roberts-Asbeck – Director of Bands, Stuart Middle School
Chandler Wilson – Director of Bands, Stetson University



The Florida Bandmasters Association is seeking original works by emerging young composers.

This competition aims to foster musical creativity by providing aspiring young composers with a platform for sharing their original works. It is designed to encourage composers to write music for concert band, specifically for the younger bands.

CONTEST RULES:

1. This contest is open to any composer, age 30 or younger. Composers from underrepresented populations are encouraged to apply.
2. The composer's name may not appear on the score or audio file. Any entry received with the composer's name on the score or recording will not be considered. The completed entry form should be submitted electronically along with all other materials. ***Please note that since email contains identifying information, the composer's name will likely be known by the committee chair. This information will not be shared with the rest of the committee members.***
3. Each composer may enter only one piece per year.
4. Entry must be the original concert band/wind ensemble work of the composer that has been composed since January 1, 2024.
5. This contest aims to encourage young composers to write for bands. It is expected that the work be of a Grade I, II or III level.
 - A) Entries should be no longer than 6 minutes in length.
 - B) Instrumentation should be that which would reasonably be expected to be accessible to middle school or high school bands.
 - C) Concerti will not be considered.
 - D) The use of electronics, flex-arranging, narration, etc are allowed.
6. Entries must be submitted with a pdf copy of the full score and an mp3 or other electronic file copy of the music. Live or electronically synthesized recordings (midi files, etc) will be accepted for consideration. The winning composer will be required to submit a hard copy of the score for archival purposes.
7. Entries must be received by December 15, 2025. The final decision is expected to be made at the FMEA Conference in January, 2026.
8. The decision of the contest committee will be final and no correspondence may be entered into regarding the award. Should the committee consider none of the submitted compositions to be meritorious, a "no prize" decision will be rendered.
9. The winning composer will receive a \$1,500 award. In the event of a tie, the cash prize will be split in half. It is our hope that the piece will be performed at the following year's FMEA Conference, but this cannot be guaranteed.
10. All performance, copyright, and royalty rights remain with the composer.
11. The winner will be announced at the FBA General Membership Meeting at The FMEA Conference in Tampa, and subsequently posted on the FBA website. An article announcing the winning composition will appear in the *Florida Music Director*.
12. Materials will not be returned.
13. Composers should send their entries and direct inquiries to the chair of the committee as listed on the first page.

FBA Young Composers Competition Entry Form

Signing this form indicates your permission to share pdf copies of your score and recording with committee members to facilitate the evaluation process. In addition, the winning composer agrees to submit a hard copy of the score for archival purposes.

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

Title of Composition _____

Date Composition Was Completed _____

Important Note: The work chosen as the winner should be one that not only is of significant structural, analytical, and technical quality, but also is one of such nature that will allow bands to program it as part of their standard repertoire. Check the appropriate box below and sign and date.

Completed application, score in PDF form and recording must be submitted to the FBA Young Composers Competition Chair by December 15, 2025.

Submit your materials to:

Josh Hobbs – Young Composers Competition Chair

joshhobbsmusic@gmail.com

Check the appropriate box below and sign and date.

If my piece is selected as a finalist, but is not deemed the winner, I would ☐ would not ☐ like for it to be listed as such in the Florida Music Director article.

Signature _____

Date _____

PROCEDURES: (not for publication)

1. The chair of the FBA Commissioning Committee will appoint a chair for the Young Composers Contest. That position could rotate annually, biannually, or stay with one person for as long as desired.
2. The chair of the Young Composers Contest should assemble a screening committee comprised of local middle school and high school band directors. This committee will listen to all entries and narrow it down to a list of finalists.
3. The members of the FBA Commission Committee will serve as the final judges for the competition and will meet during the annual FMEA Conference to determine the winner. The committee will listen to all finalists, discuss them thoroughly, and choose a winning piece by simply majority vote.
4. The chair of the Young Band Composer's Contest is responsible for advertising and promoting the contest through any means deemed appropriate. This could include the *Florida Music Director*, FMEA and FBA Facebook and web pages, flyers sent to college and universities, etc. Effort should be made to expand this to as wide a national / international audience as possible.
5. The chair of the Young Band Composer's Contest is responsible for writing (or having someone write) an article about the winning piece for the *Florida Music Director*. This does not need to be long or scholarly but should extol the virtues of the piece.
6. At the discretion of the FBA Commissioning Committee the parameters for the competition can change from year to year. For example, one year we could ask for a grade III, IV work and the following we could ask for V, VI. One year we could ask for marches and the next for a programmatic piece honoring a specific Florida event. The possibilities are limitless. The constant will be that we are looking to encourage young composers to write for the wind band medium.
7. The chair of the FBA Commissioning Committee is responsible for working with the President and Executive Director of FBA, and the All-State chairs to secure a performance for the winning piece each year. If none of the All-State Bands will agree to a performance the scheduled Fl collegiate band should be approached. No ensemble is obligated to accept this request.