

The Mariposa Symphony Orchestra and Mariposa County Arts Council, Inc's

# Young Master Composers Celebration Guidelines, Rules and Entry Form 2013

**All Entries DUE with NO EXCEPTIONS  
by 4:00 on Friday, MAY 17, 2013 at:**

Mariposa County Arts Council, Inc  
P.O. Box 2134 209.966.3155  
5009 Highway 140 (Upstairs at Chocolate Soup)  
Mariposa, CA 95338 MSO@sti.net  
[www.arts-mariposa.org/symphony.html](http://www.arts-mariposa.org/symphony.html)



All entries adjudicated by MSO Founder and Conductor Les Marsden  
(All entrants will be e-mailed a list of the winning entries by June 1, 2013 and all winning entries will be announced to the media, and will be posted on the Mariposa County Arts Council, Inc website)

## **1. WHO MAY ENTER:**

This annual contest is open only to Mariposa County Residents aged 8—18\* within the following categories:

- |              |                                   |                 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Age 8—11  | “Child Prodigy Composer”          | \$50 Cash Award |
| 2. Age 12—15 | “Teen Wonder Composer”            | \$50 Cash Award |
| 3. Age 16—18 | “Noteworthy Young Adult Composer” | \$50 Cash Award |

(\*Note: Participation is by age category with the entrant's age as of May 17, 2013—the entry deadline.)

## **2. GENERAL RULES:**

Only one entry per student. All entries must be CLEARLY notated using standard music notation on manuscript paper (available for free by download from <http://people.virginia.edu/~pdr4h/musicpaper/>) either by hand or via computer music notation programs (Finale, Sibelius, Muscore.org, etc.) Audio tapes, Mp3s, CDs or any other form of entry will NOT be accepted. Entries are limited to instrumental compositions only with no vocal (sung) parts. Entries should NOT be orchestrated but suggestions of which instruments might play certain parts are allowed. Entries MUST be accompanied by an official YOUNG MASTER COMPOSERS CELEBRATION ENTRY FORM, filled out in full (Page 3.) **Illegibility will count against entries and may cause entries to be disqualified.**

## **3. MANDATORY CRITERIA: PLEASE NOTE these REQUIREMENTS FOR 2013's contest/topic:**

### **“Words and Music”**

**First: Write a short story. It may be as short as 4—8 sentences, but it must be a story for a narrator to recite.**

And then, compose your music to be played in coordination with your story. Words and music together telling a story. There are many examples, but perhaps the best is a piece called “Peter and the Wolf,” by the great Russian composer Serge Prokofiev. You can hear (and see) an excellent performance by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra online at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfM7Y9Pcdzw> But when you write your own story and music, *don't get too complicated—it's easy to overdo it.* Just remember that your story must have a beginning, middle and end. Your entire piece: music—including narration—should be no longer than 5 minutes, total. Your music should be simple “tunes” with accompanying harmony, all composed by YOU, and you alone—which will illustrate the sentences of your story. On the next page is an excerpt from a piece with narration which the MSO's Maestro Les Marsden has composed for a string trio. This piece will be performed in its entirety at school assemblies with live musicians from the MSO throughout Mariposa County in the spring of 2013 to illustrate this very topic of “Words and Music.”

Music AND Mariposa?  
Ahhh, Paradise!

Excerpt from *Demonstration*—“*Words and Music*” for narrator and musicians by Les Marsden:

**NARRATOR:** Fortunately, there was no sign of anything dangerous under water...but the mysterious sound wasn't at Lake Don Pedro either. Then, faintly - off in the distance, in the direction of Coulterville and Greeley Hill: Meg and Mike heard that beautiful, mysterious sound yet again:

**Andante** (♩ = 60)

**NARRATOR:** They had no choice but to borrow a pair of horses from friends, strap their instruments to their saddles: and ride off for Coulterville and Greeley Hill -

**Allegro Molto** (M.M. ♩ = c. 136)

**EVERY ENTRY  
MUST INCLUDE OR  
DEMONSTRATE:**

1. **TEMPO** indications. You don't need to give metronome markings, just—Allegro (fast), Adagio (slow) or any other indications (Lento, Largo, Presto, Moderato, Andante, etc.) so I'll have an idea if your piece is fast, slow, moderately paced, really really slow, really really fast, etc. And as well, if it will change tempi within the piece.

2. **DYNAMICS.** Loud? (That's forte.) Soft? (That's piano.) Really really really soft? (That's pianissimo.)

3. **ORIGINALITY**-if you've won in the past, compose something in a totally different style this year.

- 4. **NEATNESS** is absolutely imperative. Music, notes and narration must be clearly readable or you may be disqualified.
- 5. **CREATIVITY**—follow the rules but think outside the box.
- 6. Effectiveness of **HARMONIZATION** (the underlying chords, counter tunes, or other structure **UNDER** the melodies.)
- 7. **CORRECTNESS** of **NOTATION** (i.e. **no extra beats, pitches clearly shown**, etc.) If I can't figure out what you've written, I can't just guess what you had in mind and will have to disqualify your entry.

- ◆ **BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER: *It's fun, and it should be!***
- ◆ **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE:** begin composing your music right now. NOW!
- ◆ If you have questions, send a brief e-mail to [mso@sti.net](mailto:mso@sti.net) and we'll try to answer as soon as possible.
- ◆ **LISTEN to CLASSICAL MUSIC** and enjoy what it does for your heart AND head. There's great free listening online at Seattle's KING-FM. Five different channels of "classical" music 24 hours each day:  
<http://www.king.org/pages/4445648.php>

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**MSO/MCACI YOUNG MASTER COMPOSERS CELEBRATION 2013**

**Entry Form** Please Fill Out **CLEARLY**. Each entry **MUST** be accompanied by this **COMPLETED** form and **MUST** be received by the Mariposa County Arts Council by 4:00/pm on Friday, MAY 17, 2013.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The Name of your Composition: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

IF UNDER 18, the signature of parent or guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address (required for notification): \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about your musical background and interests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What else do you like to do? Tell us about your family, hobbies, pets, etc: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

209.966.3155

The Mariposa Symphony Orchestra is a Program of the Mariposa County Arts Council, Incorporated.

**RETURN ENTRY by 4:00/pm FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2013 TO: MCACI-MSO, 5009 Highway 140 (PO BOX 2134), Mariposa, 95338**