

OVERVIEW

Modern music production has become integrated with technology in a synthesis of technical, artistic, and creative skills. Exploring the link between original, creative ideas and the tools used to implement them increases the development of a person's technical and expressive abilities.

Participants produce an original musical piece that is designed to be played during the National TSA Conference closing general session. The musical piece should be energizing, interesting, and of a spirit consistent with the Technology Student Association.

ELIGIBILITY

Three (3) teams per state may participate. Teamwork is strongly encouraged, but an individual may participate solo in this team event.

TIME LIMITS

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. The musical piece must be more than one (1) minute and less than three (3) minutes in length.
2. There will be a five (5)-point deduction for each five (5) seconds under the one (1)-minute minimum and a five (5)-point deduction for each 15 seconds over the three (3)-minute maximum length.
3. The time starts with the first sound and continues until the last sound ends.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Semifinalists are interviewed for up to ten (10) minutes to explain the technical aspects and creative process of their work.
2. The LEAP interview will be conducted as part of the semifinalist presentation/interview and will last a maximum of five (5) additional minutes.

LEAP

An individual or team LEAP Report is required for this event and must be submitted at event check-in (see LEAP Program).

ATTIRE

TSA competition attire is required for this event.

PROCEDURE

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Participants check in their entries (portfolio, CD, and LEAP Report) at the time and place stated in the conference program.
2. Entries are reviewed by judges. Neither students nor advisors are present at this time.
3. A list of twelve (12) semifinalists (in random order) will be posted.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. No more than two (2) representatives from each semifinalist team may report to the event area for the interview at the time and place stated in the conference program.
2. Each semifinalist team explains its portfolio and musical piece to the judges and discusses the purpose, value, and creative process of its work.
3. The LEAP interview will be conducted as part of the semifinalist presentation.
4. The top ten (10) finalists will be announced at the awards ceremony.

REGULATIONS

PRELIMINARY ROUND

- A. All musical pieces must be submitted on audio CD.
- B. Lyrics may accompany the musical piece but are not required.
- C. The musical piece must be greater than one (1) minute and less than three (3) minutes in length.
 1. There will be a five (5)-point deduction for each five (5) seconds under the one (1)-minute minimum and a five (5)-point deduction for each 15 seconds over the three (3)-minute maximum length.
 2. There will be a five (5)-point deduction for each fifteen (15) seconds over the three (3)-minute maximum length.

- D. All entries become the property of TSA for non-profit promotional purposes and will not be returned after judging.
- E. All musical pieces must be the original work of the team and must have been completed within the current school year.
- F. Free, non-copyrighted sounds, loops, or other musical elements may be incorporated into musical pieces. The sources of these elements and the way in which they are used in the musical piece must be described in the portfolio, and the track list must illustrate these elements.
- G. Each actual instrument, voice, and/or synthesized instrument track used in the final music piece must be illustrated in a timeline format in the portfolio.
- H. Where applicable, all ideas, sounds, and loops from other sources must be cited. If copyrighted material is used, proper written permission must be included (see the Student Copyright Checklist). NOTE: Failure to follow this procedure results in disqualification.
- I. The CD and documentation materials are turned in to the event coordinator at the time and place stated in the conference program. The documentation portfolio should be complete, well written, and professional in organization and appearance
- J. Documentation materials (comprising a “portfolio”) are required and should be secured in a clear front report cover. The report cover must include the following single-sided, 8½" x 11" pages, in this order:
 1. LEAP Report
 2. Title page with the title of the musical piece, the event title, the conference city and state, and the year; one (1) page
 3. Table of contents; pages as needed
 4. Plan of Work log that indicates preparation for the event, as noted by date, task, time involved, team member responsible, and comments (see Forms Appendix or TSA website); one (1) page
 5. Purpose and description of the musical piece; one (1) page
 6. Self-evaluation of the piece using criteria from the official rating form; one (1) page
 7. Lyrics; pages as needed (not required)
 8. Audio composition track list: Each actual instrument, voice, and/ or synthesized instrument track used in the final music piece must be illustrated graphically using a timeline format similar to that shown below.



9. When musical elements are used that were NOT created by the team, the source, effects applied, the way each element was incorporated into the song, and how each element corresponds to the musical piece's track list must be included; pages as needed. Failure to include this section results in disqualification.
10. List of hardware, software, and instruments used in the development of the musical piece; one (1) page
11. List of references that includes sources for materials (non-copyrighted); pages as needed
12. Completed Student Copyright Checklist, as applicable (see Forms Appendix or TSA website)

SEMIFINAL ROUND

A. LEAP Requirements

1. Teams document the leadership skills the team has developed and demonstrated while working on this event, and on a non-competitive event leadership experience.
2. Semifinalists will respond to questions about the content of their LEAP Report as part of their event-specific presentation/interview.
3. Specific LEAP Report regulations can be found in the LEAP Program section of this guide and on the TSA website.

EVALUATION

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. The musical piece
2. The accompanying documentation
3. Depending upon the stated purpose, musical pieces are judged on coherence, style, creativity, and artisanship, as well as technical attributes, creativity, organization, and their overall effect.
4. Additionally, the musical piece and portfolio should reflect familiarity with the technologies used in musical production.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. The event-specific presentation and interview
2. The content and quality of the LEAP Report and interview

Refer to the official rating form for more information.

STEM INTEGRATION

This event aligns with the STEM educational of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

CAREERS RELATED TO THIS EVENT

- Artist
- Audio designer or engineer
- Audio operator or technician
- Broadcast technician
- Music composer

MUSIC PRODUCTION

2019 & 2020 OFFICIAL RATING FORM

HIGH SCHOOL

Judges: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points), or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline in the rating form, record the scores earned for the event criteria in the column spaces to the right. The X1 or X2 notation in the criteria column is a multiplier factor for determining the points earned. (Example: an "adequate" score of 7 for an X1 criterion = 7 points; an "adequate" score of 7 for an X2 criterion = 14 points.) A score of zero (0) is acceptable if the minimal performance for any criterion is not met.

Go/No Go Specifications

- Before judging the entry, ensure that the items below are present; indicate presence with a check mark in the box.
- If an item is missing, leave the box next to the item blank and place a check mark in the box labeled ENTRY NOT EVALUATED.
- If a check mark is placed in the ENTRY NOT EVALUATED box, the entry is not to be judged.

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- The portfolio is present.
 - The track timeline is included in the portfolio and meets the required format.
 - The CD is present and plays on a standard CD player.
 - Completed LEAP Report is present.
 - ENTRY NOT EVALUATED

DOCUMENTATION (40 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Portfolio components (X1)	The portfolio is unorganized and/or missing three or more components.	The portfolio is adequately organized and includes most, if not all, components.	All components of the portfolio are included, and the organization of the content is clearly evident.	
Purpose and description (X1)	An unclear purpose and description of the music production idea and generation are provided.	The purpose and description are explained adequately.	A clear and concisely written purpose and description of the music production are included.	
Plan of Work log and self-evaluation (X1)	The Plan of Work log and/or self-evaluation are incomplete, and/or missing key components.	The Plan of Work log and/or self-evaluation are somewhat complete and incorporate reflections and efforts of the team.	A complete and concisely written Plan of Work log and self-evaluation are provided and incorporate the efforts and reflections of the team.	
Track timeline (X1)	The track timeline is incomplete and/or not created correctly; the timeline does not correlate with the actual music production.	The track timeline is largely complete and attempts to correlate with the actual music production.	The track timeline is of exemplary quality; it correlates completely with the music production and is easy to follow.	
DOCUMENTATION SUBTOTAL (40 points)				

Record scores
in the column
spaces below.

MUSICAL PIECE (60 points)			
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points
Creativity and uniqueness (X1)	The musical idea is overly familiar or is a cliché; no variety or exploration of musical elements (range, timbre, dynamics, tempo, rhythm, and melody) are evident.	The work involves some original aspects or manipulations of musical ideas; it explores and includes at least one or more musical elements.	The piece includes highly original, unusual, or imaginative musical ideas; it explores and includes at least two or more musical elements.
Artisanship (X1)	The piece gives no sense of a completed musical idea; there is no clear beginning, middle, or end section; the form appears random, rather than organized.	One musical element has been used to organize the musical ideas and overall form, which are somewhat coherent.	The piece presents at least one complete musical idea; the piece has a coherent and organized form with a clear beginning, middle, and end; musical elements are used to organize the musical ideas and form.
Energy and style (X1)	The piece lacks liveliness, vitality, and vigor; there is no flair, elegance, or grace to the form.	The piece generates an initial level of energy that appeals to the listener; the style is somewhat distinctive.	The liveliness and forcefulness of the piece excite the listener; the style is truly unique and electrifying.
Appropriateness (X1)	The musical idea or concept is not appropriate and acceptable for use in the event.	The musical idea or concept presented is acceptable and somewhat fitting.	The musical idea or concept presented is fitting and serves as an excellent example of the type of work expected.
Overall appeal (X2)	The work does not present an effective general impression; the musical ideas do not hold the listener's interest.	The work includes some interesting musical ideas; the general impression is pleasant and moderately effective.	There is strong, interesting, and effective audio appeal; the work is designed to be enjoyed by the listeners.
MUSICAL PIECE SUBTOTAL (60 points)			

TIME DEDUCTIONS			
There will be a five (5) point deduction for each fifteen (15) seconds under the minimum time or each fifteen (15) seconds over the maximum time allowed for the visualization.			
Total time under		Five (5)-second intervals under	Under time deduction
Total time over		Fifteen (15)-second intervals over	Over time deduction
TOTAL TIME DEDUCTION			

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initialed by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: _____

PRELIMINARY SUBTOTAL (100 points)

SEMIFINAL INTERVIEW (54 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Organization (X1)	The team/individual seems unprepared and unorganized for the interview.	The team/individual is adequately prepared and organized for the interview.	The interview with judges is logically organized and impressive.	
Knowledge (X1)	The team/individual seems to have very little understanding of the concepts and gives vague interview answers.	The team/individual has a generalized understanding of the concepts discussed and answers questions well.	There is clear evidence of a thorough understanding of the concepts discussed.	
Articulation (X1)	The interview is full of illogical thoughts that lack understanding and clarity.	The interview is somewhat logical, clear, and concise.	A concise, logical, and clear explanation of the entry is given in the interview.	
Delivery (X1)	The team/individual is verbose and/or uncertain in the interview; posture, gestures, and lack of eye contact diminish the delivery.	The team/individual is somewhat well-spoken and clear in the interview; posture, gestures, and eye contact result in an acceptable delivery.	The team/individual is well-spoken and distinct in the interview; posture, gestures, and eye contact result in a polished, natural, and effective delivery.	
LEAP Report/ Interview (14 points; 10% of total event points)	The individual's or team's efforts are not clearly communicated, lack detail, and/or are unconvincing; few, if any, attempts are made to identify and/or incorporate the SLC Practices and Behaviors.	The individual's or team's efforts are adequately communicated, include some detail, are clear, and/or are generally convincing; identification and/or incorporation of the SLC Practices and Behaviors is adequate.	The individual's or team's efforts are clearly communicated, fully-detailed, and convincing; identification and/or incorporation of the SLC Practices and Behaviors is excellent.	
SEMIFINAL INTERVIEW SUBTOTAL (54 points)				
Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initialed by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right. Indicate the rule violated: _____				
SEMIFINAL SUBTOTAL (54 points)				
To arrive at the TOTAL score, add the PRELIMINARY SUBTOTAL and the SEMIFINAL SUBTOTAL.			TOTAL (154 points)	

Comments:

I certify these results to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

JUDGE

Printed name: _____ Signature: _____

MUSIC PRODUCTION EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONNEL

- A. Event coordinator
- B. Judges:
 1. Preliminary round, two (2) or more
 2. Semifinal round, two (2) or more

MATERIALS

- A. Coordinator's packet, containing:
 1. Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and for each judge
 2. TSA Event Coordinator Report
 3. List of judges/assistants
 4. Pre-populated flash drives for judges
 5. Stick-on labels for entries, as needed
 6. One (1) stopwatch per group of judges
 7. Results envelope
 8. Envelope for LEAP Reports
 9. LEAP Interview Judging Protocol
- B. Tables and chairs for judges
- C. CD player capable of playing an audio CD, as needed
- D. Extension cords (25' minimum length), as needed
- E. Power bar with surge protection, as needed

RESPONSIBILITIES

AT THE CONFERENCE

1. Attend the mandatory coordinator's meeting at the designated time and location.
2. Report to the CRC room and obtain the coordinator's packet; check the contents.
3. Review the event guidelines and check to see that enough judges/assistants have been scheduled.
4. Inspect the area(s) in which the event is being held for appropriate set-up, including room size, chairs, tables, outlets, etc. Notify the event manager of any potential problems.

5. At least one (1) hour before the event is set to begin, meet with judges/assistants to review time limits, procedures, and regulations. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.

EVENT CHECK-IN

1. Check in the entries and collect LEAP Reports at the time stated in the conference program.
2. Anyone reporting who is not on the entry list may check in only after official notification is received from the CRC.
3. Late entries are considered on a case-by-case basis and only when the delay is caused by events beyond participant control.
4. Place an entry number on each CD and in the upper right-hand corner of the portfolio. Secure the entries in the designated area.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Judges independently assess the entries.
2. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and CRC manager to determine either:
 - a. To deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round or
 - b. To disqualify the entry
 - c. The event coordinator, judges and CRC manager must all initial either of these actions on the rating form.
3. The number of judges depends on the number of entries. There are two (2) judges for every twenty (20) entries for the first evaluation round.
4. Judges review the entries, to determine twelve (12) semifinalists. The semifinalist list is posted.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Semifinalists report at the time and location stated in the conference program to be interviewed.
2. Semifinalists are interviewed for up to ten (10) minutes to explain the technical aspects and creative process of their work. The LEAP interview will be conducted as part of the semifinalist event interview and will last a maximum of five (5) additional minutes.
3. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and CRC manager to determine either:
 - a. To deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round or
 - b. To disqualify the entry
 - c. The event coordinator, judges and CRC manager must all initial either of these actions on the rating form.
4. Judges independently assess the semifinalists, discuss and break any ties, and determine ten (10) finalists. (Determine the procedure for breaking ties before the onsite competition begins.)
5. Review and submit the finalist results and all items/forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.
6. Take all CDs, portfolios, extension cords, and supplies to the CRC room. Return all equipment to the appropriate personnel.