

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS**  
**Subcommission on the Arts**  
**National Committee on Music**

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**COMPOSITION PRIZE GUIDELINES**

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The *National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Composition Prize* is a biennial award given to deserving composers for each category. Initiated in 2016, it is a competition on concert hall music, which calls for extended works that go beyond popular or traditional music-writing or improvisation, and thus can be better judged or evaluated if codified with acceptable standard notation that may be published and recreated later through a performance.

The NCCA, in line with its mission to “encourage the continuing development of a pluralistic culture by the people themselves,” will be creating the opportunity to have a direct hand in the development and enrichment of the genres in Philippine music literature.

**1. Eligibility**

The award is open to all Filipino composers, of legal age as prescribed by the law at the time of the submission, except to the officers and members of the NCCA Secretariat and the incumbent Executive Council (ExeCon) Members of the NCCA Committee on Music (NCM). Compositions that may be submitted must be unpublished and unperformed until the award is given. Likewise, these compositions should not have been awarded a prize from any award-giving body.

**2. Mechanics**

For the NCCA Composition Prize competition, the following are the requirements in the submission of entries:

2.1 Composers must submit an accomplished application form, which is available at the NCCA Plan/Policy Formulation and Programming Division (P/PFPD) or may be downloaded from the NCCA website: [www.ncca.gov.ph](http://www.ncca.gov.ph) together with the following:

- a) composer’s curriculum vitae;
- b) two (2) copies of the complete full score in PDF format
  - PDF #1 - File Name: Composer’s Last Name-Title of Work-Category (the composer’s full name must appear on the score itself)
  - PDF #2 - File Name: Title of Work-Category (the composer’s name will not appear anywhere on the score);
- c) two (2) mp3 files (320kbps) of the complete work
  - MP3 #1 - File Name: Composer’s Last Name-Title of Work-Category
  - MP3 #2 - File Name: Title of Work-Category;
- d) composer’s notes on the submitted composition;
- e) one (1) 2x2 recent picture of the composer.

*CATEGORY	**FINAL OUTPUT	*AMOUNT
<b>Solo Piano</b>	At least three (3) pieces/movements** (combined minimum duration of 8 minutes)	P100,000
<b>Standard Chamber Orchestra</b> (With or without voice; may utilize genres such as the concerto, suite, variations, or others; with or without electronics and/or Philippine indigenous instruments. Options utilizing voice could be Song Cycle for Solo Voice and Chamber Orchestra, Small Chorus and Chamber Orchestra. An example for the use of indigenous instrument could be Concerto for Kulintang and Chamber Orchestra.)	At least three (3) pieces/movements** (combined minimum duration of 12 minutes) preferably intended for youth or school/community-based ensemble	P150,000
<b>Standard Full Orchestra</b> (With or without voice; with or without electronics and/or Philippine indigenous instruments. May utilize genres such as the concerto, symphony, overture, tone poem, suite, variations, or others. Options utilizing voice could be Song Cycle for Solo Voice and Full Orchestra, Large Chorus and Full Orchestra.)	At least three (3) pieces/movements** (combined minimum duration of 12 minutes) preferably intended for youth or school/community-based orchestra	P250,000
<b>Symphonic Band</b> (With or without voice; with or without electronics and/or Philippine indigenous instruments. May utilize genres such as the concerto, symphony, overture, tone poem, suite, variations, or others.)	At least three (3) pieces/movements** (combined minimum duration of 12 minutes) preferably intended for youth or school/community-based symphonic band	P250,000

**N.B.**

\*\*An extended single-movement work may be submitted provided that the composer adheres to the designated combined minimum duration of that particular category.

Compositions that utilize texts must be authored by a Philippine poet/writer in any Philippine language though other non-Philippine language may still be accepted. If

the composer is not the writer of the text, then the composer is solely responsible for securing copyright clearance especially for texts that are not in the public domain.

Compositions that include electronics shall be at the composer's expense. NCCA shall not assume responsibility for procuring neither the equipment nor software/program necessary for the composition.

All submitted compositions shall use standard conventional notation. Non-conventional notation may be employed but accompanied with convincing explanation. The manuscript must not bear the name of the applicant in any of the pages. All manuscripts received with identifying marks shall be disqualified.

Manuscripts must preferably be computer-generated. Handwritten scores may also be accepted but composers must be prepared to submit a computer-generated notation at their own expense if such scores are selected by the jury.

**\*The Categories and prizes maybe subject for biennial review of the committee, subject to availability of funds, and auditing rules and regulations, prior to the call for submission of entries.**

- 2.2 Applications will first be evaluated by the project officer assigned to the project for compliance of completed requirements. Then, these shall be adjudicated by three (3) jurors to be assembled upon the recommendation of the National Committee on Music. The members of the Board of Jury shall be composed of respected and esteemed musicians and composers.
- 2.3 Composers are allowed to submit only one (1) composition in a particular category but may also apply in all other categories and must also fill up another application form for the other category.
- 2.4 The prize (in the gross amount stipulated in each category) shall be released during the Awarding Ceremony on a date approved by the NCCA and NCM.

Other details of the awarding shall be released on a later date.

The cash prize shall be subject to applicable government taxes, and accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

- 2.5 The jury may declare either one (1) winner or no winner for each category.

Allotment for prizes shall be subject to the availability of prize funds.

- 2.6 The winning composition must be re-submitted in two forms: Two (2) hard-bound printed copies and one (1) electronic copy in PDF format in a USB. The winning works shall include the name of the composer and bear the following inscription on each of the printed manuscript and in all press releases:

**Winner of the 2022 Composition Prize - (Name of Category)  
from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts –  
National Committee on Music**

- 2.7 Deadline of submission of application together with the other requirements shall be on or before **May 31, 2022**. All applications shall be submitted through e-mail to:

**[nccacompositionprize2022@gmail.com](mailto:nccacompositionprize2022@gmail.com)**

- 2.8 Entries received after the designated date shall be disqualified. Composers shall receive an e-mail within 72 hours to confirm the status of their submission.

Entries with still incomplete requirements after the deadline has passed shall also be disqualified.

The winning composer for each category shall also receive an e-mail confirmation. Announcement of selected composers shall be posted on the official NCCA website and Facebook page.

- 2.9 Entries that were not selected shall not be returned and shall be immediately discarded. Likewise, incomplete applications shall be sufficient grounds for disqualification. Therefore, it is the sole responsibility of the composer to make certain that all requirements are complete.

- 2.10 Compositions may deal with any topic including those dealing with current and relevant issues for the application year.

- 2.11 The criteria for selection shall be:

- a) Clarity of concept and compositional creative direction;
- b) Balance of idiomatic writing vis-à-vis desired textural colours that are difficult/impossible for the target performers to recreate

- 2.12 The decision of the Board of Jury is final and irrevocable. The NCCA Committee on Music, through the project officer assigned to the project, also reserves the right to make any changes deemed necessary to any part of the competition at any time without any prejudice to the composers.

### **3. Other Mechanics**

- 3.1 The composers hereby grant the NCCA the first option to publish the winning manuscripts. The NCCA will have the right to produce or authorize to be produced for staging, telecasting, broadcasting, or cinema, or other forms of presentation from time to time any output of the winning compositions without any additional performance or broadcast royalty to the composer for three (3) years beginning the succeeding year after the prize has been awarded. Afterwards, such royalties will have to be collected and paid to the composer. The NCCA will likewise be allowed to include the completed manuscripts in the NCCA Website. The first option of the NCCA to publish shall be within two years after the prize has been awarded. After that, publishing rights shall revert to the respective composers.

- 3.2 Any violation of the guidelines shall mean forfeiture of the prize and the amount paid to the composer, if any, must be returned immediately to the NCCA. The jury then reserves the right to award the prize to another composer or declare no winner for that particular category.

- 3.3 If there are any inquiries regarding any component of the prize, send an email to:

**nccacompositionprize2022@gmail.com**

### **4. Public World Premier**

- 4.1 NCCA shall organize the implementation of the public world premiere of the winning compositions subject to availability of funds. The winning composer of each category is highly encouraged to attend the performance at his/her own expense.

## **5. Amendment/Revision**

- 5.1 Any amendment/minor revision on the general guidelines, particularly on the categories to be chosen for the implementation year shall be approved by the Executive Director, upon review, recommendation and endorsement by the NCM through the Subcommittee on the Arts (SCA). The Board shall be informed of any update on the categories for the implementation year, as well as the winner for the covered year.

—*January 6, 2022*