



## **American String Teachers Association**

### **2010 MERLE J. ISAAC SENIOR COMPOSITION CONTEST GUIDELINES and APPLICATION**

**Purpose:**

To encourage the composition, publication, and performance of music of quality for the benefit of school orchestra programs.

**Program:**

An original unpublished composition that is suitable for a string or full orchestra. Entries for elementary, middle/junior high school, and high school orchestra will be accepted. Compositions written for commission and compositions that have been submitted for publication will not be accepted. Materials must be postmarked by January 15, 2010 .

**Prize:**

Winner receives national publicity, aid in publication of the work, and \$1,500. The winning composition may be published by any publisher jointly agreed to by the composer and ASTA. When published, the winning composition must carry the designation: "Winner, 2010 Merle J. Isaac Senior Composition Contest" on the score and each part. Upon publication, all royalties will remain the sole property of the composer.

**Specifications:**

Only one entry per composer will be allowed, and commissioned works will not be accepted. Manuscripts are evaluated by score analysis and live performance. The manuscript and parts must not contain any identification of the composer. Length of composition should be appropriate to age level. The manuscript must be clear and legible and include the title and rehearsal numbers or letters. The string parts should be thoroughly edited with bowings and fingerings. A recording of the composition is encouraged. Manuscripts, parts, and recordings will not be returned.

**Application Materials:**

*For String Orchestra Submissions:*

1. Application
2. Six (6) copies of the score and one (1) set of parts is required, including wind parts. String parts should be as follows: 8,8,5,5,3.

3. Non-refundable entrance fee of \$25. Checks should be made payable to ASTA or American String Teachers Association.

*For Full Orchestra Submissions:*

1. Application
2. Six (6) copies of the score and one (1) set of parts are required. Parts should be as follows: woodwinds, brass, and percussion: one (1) copy per part; strings: 8,8,5,5,3. Recommended instrumentation is 2121 2231, timp + 1 perc, and strings.
3. Non-refundable entrance fee of \$25. Checks should be made payable to ASTA or American String Teachers Association.

**Selection:**

In the preliminary round, all entries will be screened through score analysis by a panel of three judges. Compositions selected for the final round will be performed by a high school orchestra for a panel of judges. Only the winning composer's name will be announced. The identity of all other contestants will be held in strict confidence. ASTA reserves the right to declare that a winner does not exist if the entry requirements and musical standards are not fulfilled.

**Liability:**

Although every effort will be made to protect and safeguard all manuscripts, neither ASTA nor anyone connected with this contest will assume responsibility for loss or damage. It is strongly recommended that contestants keep the original copies of the score, parts, and tapes.

**2010 MERLE J. ISAAC STUDENT COMPOSITION CONTEST APPLICATION**

Applicant/Composer: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Composition: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: Full Orchestra: \_\_\_\_\_ String Orchestra \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

ASTA ID (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I accept the contest guidelines and terms of publications, and I guarantee the enclosed manuscript is my original work and sole property. This piece is not a commissioned work.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Information**

Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Please make check payable to ASTA

Credit Card: \_\_ VISA \_\_ MasterCard

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit application to:

**Merle J. Isaac Senior Composition Contest  
ASTA  
4153 Chain Bridge  
Fairfax, VA 22030**