**The Great Computer Challenge, 2018**

***Music Composition, Level IV***

# **Background**

You have been commissioned by the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center to compose the music for an upcoming documentary series about local marine life.

# **Guidelines & Requirements**

1. Write an original instrumental piece. This piece must include at least one traditional sound source and one nontraditional sound source, but can include more.
2. The entire piece must be an original composition and cannot contain any pre-recorded tracks, except for the non-traditional sound source.
3. The meter and key are your choice, but they must be clear and definite.
4. Use the name of your animal in the title of your piece.
5. Your piece must contain **all** of the following elements:

* Four different indications of dynamics, including at least one crescendo, one decrescendo, and three accents
* One or more instances of a tempo change
* At least one instance of a repeat that repeats four or more measures

# **Challenge**

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center has commissioned you to compose the music for an upcoming documentary series about local marine life. Each episode of the series will focus on one of the following animals:

* River Otter
* Bottlenose Dolphin
* Blue Crab
* Sandbar Shark
* Osprey (sea hawk)

Select one of the animals from this list and compose a theme for that episode. The composition should transform your thoughts and feelings about the animal into musical form, and help the listener envision the animal’s characteristics and the environment in which it lives.

# **Judging Criteria**

Complete the problem thoroughly (meeting all criteria) using either multi-track drag-and-drop software or a traditional notation software. The judges will review the music on-screen in the software used. A recording will not be accepted without the on-screen view of the notation. Points will be awarded for

* meeting minimum requirements - 50%
* creativity and originality - 25%
* musicality (incorporation of musical elements for expression) - 25%

*Reminder: If your computer is password protected, leave your password. Judges cannot judge what they cannot see or hear.*

# **SOL Correlation**

1.9.4: The student will create music by composing simple rhythmic patterns, using traditional or nontraditional notation.

2.1.2,4,5: The student will read and notate music, including using the musical alphabet to notate melodic patterns, reading and notating rhythmic patterns that include half notes, half rests, whole notes, and whole rests; and using basic music symbols.

4.6.2-3 The student will create music by using a variety of sound sources; composing short melodic and rhythmic phrases within specified guidelines; and using contemporary media and technology.

5.6.2-3 The student will create music by composing a short original composition within specified guidelines; and using contemporary media and technology.

HG.1.1-2,4: The student will read and notate music, including notating original musical ideas on the treble and bass staves; identifying and using the standard notation symbols for pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, articulation, and expression; and using contemporary technology.

HG.2.1-2 The student will compose and arrange music within specified guidelines by incorporating appropriate voicings and ranges; and using a variety of sound, notational, and technological sources.

HG6.3. The student will explore historical and cultural aspects of music by identifying the relationship of music to the other fine arts and other fields of knowledge.

HIB.4 The student will identify, read, and perform music in simple meters.

HIB.8.2 The student will use music composition as a means of expression by notating the composition in standard notation, using contemporary technology

HIB.14 The student will use articulations, dynamic contrasts, and phrasing as means of expression.

HII.1.1 The student will echo, read, and notate music, including identifying, defining, and applying standard notation for pitch, rhythm, meter, articulation, dynamics, and other elements of music.

HII.7.2 The student will use music composition as a means of expression by notating the composition in standard notation, using contemporary technology.

HII.8 The student will define and apply music terminology found in the music literature being studied.

Have fun and thanks for participating in the Great Computer Challenge, 2018!