**The Great Computer Challenge, 2020**

***Music Composition, Level 3***

# **Background**

As a composer of music, you can practice music theory through writing music notation, and use critical-thinking skills to organize your compositions. Your skills can be applied to many different musical styles. For example, film and television music helps establish setting, creates atmosphere, calls attention to important elements, and creates emotion. As you address the problem that follows, reflect on the sensory, emotional, and intellectual qualities of music.

# **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 sources.
3. The meter must begin in 4/4.
4. The key can be your choice.
5. The music must “tell a story” by evoking characters, places and emotions.
6. Your piece must contain **all** of the following elements:

* Three or more different indications of dynamics.
* One or more instances of syncopated rhythm.
* At least one of each of the following types of rests:
  + Whole-rest
  + Half-rest
* At least one of each of the following types of notes:
  + Whole-note
  + Half-note

# **Challenge 1**

You are an astronaut who has been hired to work on a space station deep in space. During a team research trip to a nearby planet, you are separated from the other astronauts and stumble upon an alien life form. Write a piece of music that “tells the story” of your encounter with the alien by depicting your emotions and experiences. The piece should let the listener know if the alien was friendly or frightening.

# **Judging Criteria**

Complete the problem thoroughly (meeting all criteria) using either multi-track drag-and-drop software or a traditional notation program. The judges will load the program and review the music on-screen as well as listen to it, so please leave directions for loading the program. A recording will not be accepted without the on-screen view of the notation. Points will be awarded for

* fulfillment of the problem’s requirements - 35%
* creativity and originality - 25%
* musicality (incorporation of musical elements for expression) - 25%
* effective use of the computer - 15%

**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.

MIB.1.1, MII1.1 The student will echo, read, and notate music, including identifying, defining, and using basic standard notation for pitch, rhythm, meter, articulation, dynamics, and other elements of music.

MIB.8.2, MII.7.2, MIAD.7.2 The student will use music composition as a means of expression by notating the composition in standard notation, using contemporary technology.

MIB.9 The student will define and apply music terminology found in the music literature being studied.

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

***Have fun and thanks for participating in the   
Great Computer Challenge, 2020!***