**The Great Computer Challenge, 2020**

***Music Composition, Level 4***

# **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 and change at least once during the piece.
4. The key is your choice.
5. Your piece must contain **all** of the following elements:
   * Three different indications of dynamics, including at least one crescendo.
   * At least one instance of each of the following types of notes:
     + Whole
     + Half
     + Quarter
     + Eighth
     + Sixteenth
   * At least one instance of each of the following articulations:
     + Staccato
     + Accent note
     + Fermata

# **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 were separated from the other astronauts and encountered 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 your encounter with 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.

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.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, 2020!***