OVERVIEW

Modern music production has become integrated with technology in a synthesis of technical, artistic, and creative skills. Exploring the link between original, creative ideas and the tools used to implement them increases the development of a person's technical and expressive abilities.

Participants produce an original musical piece that is designed to be played during the national TSA conference opening or closing general sessions. The musical piece should be energizing, interesting, and of a spirit consistent with the Technology Student Association.

ELIGIBILITY

Entries are limited to three (3) teams per state. Teamwork is strongly encouraged, but an individual may participate solo in this team event.

TIME LIMITS

A. Entries must be started and completed during the current school year.

B. The musical piece should be more than one (1) minute and less than three (3) minutes in length. There will be a five (5)-point deduction for each five (5) seconds under the one (1)-minute minimum and a five (5)-point deduction for each 15 seconds over the three (3)-minute maximum length.

C. The time starts with the first sound and continues until the last sound ends.

D. Semifinalists are interviewed for up to ten (10) minutes to explain the technical aspects and creative process of their work.

E. The LEAP interview will be conducted as part of the semifinalist presentation/interview and will last a maximum of five (5) additional minutes.

☑ In recent years, developments in communication technology have dramatically changed the way music is experienced. During the past century, recorded music went from nonexistent to the primary way people listen to music. With this event, TSA members can demonstrate their mastery of this medium.

LEAP LEADERSHIP RESUME/INTERVIEW

A Team LEAP Leadership Resume is required for this event and must be submitted at event check-in. Semifinalists will respond to interview questions related to their submitted LEAP Resume for a maximum of five (5) minutes. A <u>team</u> competing in this event will use the *Team LEAP Leadership Resume* template; an <u>individual</u> competing in this event will use the *Individual LEAP Leadership Resume* template.

ATTIRE

Competition attire, as described in the National TSA Dress Code section of this guide, is required for this event.

PROCEDURE

A. Participants check in their entries (portfolio, CD, and LEAP Leadership Resume) at the time and place stated in the conference program.

B. Entries are reviewed by evaluators. Neither students nor advisors are present at this time.

C. No more than two (2) representatives from each semifinalist team may report to the event area for the interview at the time and place stated in the conference program.

D. Each semifinalist team explains its portfolio and musical piece to the evaluators and discusses the purpose, value, and creative process of its work. Semifinalist teams will not be allowed to obtain their portfolios until their scheduled interview time.

E. The LEAP interview will be conducted as part of the semifinalist presentation and will last a maximum of five (5) additional minutes.

It is essential that students and advisors routinely check the TSA website (www.tsaweb.org) for updated information about TSA general rules and competitive events. This information is found on the website under Competitions/Updates. When students participate in any TSA competitive event, they are responsible for knowing of updates, changes, or clarification related to that event.

REGULATIONS

A. All musical pieces must be submitted on audio CD.

B. Lyrics may accompany the musical piece but are not required.

✓ Read the General Rules and Regulations section in the front of this guide for information that applies to all of TSA's competitive events. Music Production teams should pay close attention to the rule related to original work and the user of materials from other sources.

C. The musical piece should be greater than one (1) minute and less than three (3) minutes in length. There will be a five (5)-point deduction for each five (5) seconds under the one (1)-minute minimum and a five (5)-point deduction for each fifteen (15) seconds over the three (3)-minute maximum length.

D. Musical pieces thirty (30) seconds or less will be disqualified.

E. All entries become the property of TSA for non-profit promotional purposes and will not be returned after judging.

F. All musical pieces must be the original work of the team and must have been completed within the current school year.

G. Free, non-copyrighted sounds, loops, or other musical elements may be incorporated into musical pieces. The sources of these elements and the way in which they are used in the musical piece must be described in the portfolio, and the track list must illustrate these elements.

H. Each actual instrument, voice, and/or synthesized instrument track used in the final music piece must be illustrated in a timeline format in the portfolio.

I. Where applicable, all ideas, sounds, and loops from other sources must be cited. If copyrighted material is used, proper written permission must be included (see the Student Copyright Checklist). **NOTE: Failure to follow this procedure results in disqualification.**

J. The CD and documentation materials are turned in to the event coordinator at the time and place stated in the conference program. Documentation materials (comprising a "portfolio") are required and should be secured in a clear front report cover. The report cover must include the following single-sided, 8½" x 11" pages, in this order:

   1. Title page with the title of the musical piece, the event title, the conference city and state, and the year; one (1) page
   2. Table of contents; pages as needed
   3. Plan of Work log that indicates preparation for the event, as noted by date, task, time involved, team member responsible, and comments (see Forms Appendix or TSA website); one (1) page
   4. Purpose and description of the musical piece; one (1) page
   5. Self-evaluation of the piece using criteria from the official rating form; one (1) page
   6. Lyrics; pages as needed
   7. Audio CD(s) track list: Each actual instrument, voice, and/ or synthesized instrument track used in the final music piece must be illustrated graphically using a timeline format similar to that shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1

8. When musical elements are used that were NOT created by the team, the source, effects applied, the way each element was incorporated into the song, and how each element corresponds to the musical piece's track list must be included; pages as needed. **Failure to include this section results in disqualification.**

9. List of hardware, software, and instruments used in the development of the musical piece; one (1) page

10. List of references that includes sources for materials (non-copyrighted); pages as needed

11. Completed Student Copyright Checklist, as applicable (see Forms Appendix or TSA website)

K. LEAP Leadership Resume (see Forms Appendix or TSA website)/Interview — Teams document, in the LEAP leadership resume (see resume template), the leadership skills that the team has developed and demonstrated while working on this event. Semifinalists will respond to questions about the content of their resume as part of their LEAP interview. The LEAP Leadership Resume/Interview guidelines and other resources can be found on the TSA website. A <u>team</u> competing in this event will use the *Team LEAP Leadership Resume* template; an <u>individual</u> competing in this event will use the *Individual LEAP Leadership Resume* template.

EVALUATION

Evaluation is based on the musical piece, accompanying documentation, and LEAP requirements. Depending upon the stated purpose, musical pieces are judged on coherence, style, creativity, and artisanship, as well as technical attributes, creativity, organization, and their overall effect. Additionally, the musical piece and portfolio should reflect familiarity with the technologies used in musical production. Portfolios should be complete, well written, and professional in organization and appearance. Please refer to the official rating form for more information.

STEM INTEGRATION

This event aligns with the STEM educational standards noted below. Please refer to the STEM Integration section of this guide for more information.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

TSA AND CAREERS

This competition connects to one or more of the career areas featured in the TSA AND CAREERS section of this guide. Use *The Career Clusters* chart and the *TSA Competitions and The Career Clusters* grid as resources for information about careers.

CAREERS RELATED TO THIS EVENT

Artist
Audio designer or engineer
Audio operator or technician
Broadcast technician
Music composer

MUSIC PRODUCTION
EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONNEL

A. Event coordinator

B. Evaluators for first round, two (2) or more

C. Evaluators for second round, two (2) or more

D. Semifinalist evaluators, two (2) or more

E. Evaluators for semifinalist interviews, two (2) or more

MATERIALS

A. Coordinator's packet, containing:
   1. Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and for each evaluator
   2. TSA Event Coordinator Report
   3. List of evaluators/assistants
   4. Pre-populated flash drives for evaluators
   5. Stick-on labels for entries, as needed
   6. One (1) stopwatch per group of evaluators
   7. Results envelope
   8. Envelope for LEAP Leadership Resumes
   9. LEAP Interview Judging Protocol

B. Tables and chairs for evaluators

C. CD player capable of playing an audio CD, as needed

D. Extension cords (25' minimum length), as needed

E. Power bar with surge protection, as needed

RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Upon arrival at the conference, report to the CRC room and check the contents of the coordinator's packet. Review the event guidelines and check to see that enough evaluators/assistants have been scheduled.

B. Inspect the area(s) in which the event is being held for appropriate set-up, including room size, chairs, tables, outlets, etc. Notify the event manager of any potential problems.

C. Check in the entries and collect LEAP Leadership Resumes at the time stated in the conference program. Anyone reporting who

is not on the entry list may check in only after official notification is received from the CRC. Late entries are considered on a case-by-case basis and only when the lateness is caused by events beyond the participant's control. Requirements for attire do NOT apply during check-in.

D. Place an entry number on each CD and portfolio. Secure the entries in the designated area.

E. One (1) hour before the event is scheduled to begin, meet with evaluators/assistants to review time limits, procedures, and regulations. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.

F. Evaluators independently assess the entries.

G. For participants who violate the rules, the decision either to deduct 20% of the total possible points or to disqualify the entry must be discussed and verified with the evaluators, event coordinator, and a CRC manager.

H. The number of evaluator teams depends on the number of entries. There are two (2) evaluators for every twenty (20) entries for the first evaluation round.

I. Evaluators review the entries, to determine twelve (12) semifinalists. The semifinalist list is posted.

J. Semifinalists report at the time and location stated in the conference program to be interviewed.

K. Semifinalists are interviewed for up to ten (10) minutes to explain the technical aspects and creative process of their work. The LEAP interview will be conducted as part of the semifinalist event interview and will last a maximum of five (5) additional minutes.

L. Evaluators independently assess the semifinalists, discuss and break any ties, and determine ten (10) finalists.

M. Review and submit the finalist results and all items/forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.

N. Take all CDs, portfolios, extension cords, and supplies to the CRC room. Return all equipment to the appropriate personnel.

MUSIC PRODUCTION

2017 & 2018 OFFICIAL RATING FORM	HIGH SCHOOL

Go/No Go Specifications

Before judging the entry, ensure that the items below are present; indicate presence with a check mark in the box. If an item is missing, leave the box blank and place a check mark in the box labeled ENTRY NOT EVALUATED. If a check mark is placed in the ENTRY NOT EVALUATED box, the entry is not to be judged.

☐ **The portfolio is present.**

☐ **The track timeline is included in the portfolio and meets the required format.**

☐ **The CD is present and plays on a standard CD player.**

☐ **Completed LEAP Leadership Resume is present.**

☐ **ENTRY NOT EVALUATED**

Documentation (40 points)

CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points	
Evaluators: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points), or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline, record the scores earned for the event criteria in the column spaces to the right. The X1 or X2 notation in the criteria column is a multiplier factor for determining the points earned. (Example: an "adequate" score of 7 for an X1 criterion = 7 points; an "adequate" score of 7 for an X2 criterion = 14 points.) A score of zero (0) is acceptable if the minimal performance for any criterion is not met.				
Portfolio components See Regulation J (x1)	The portfolio is unorganized and/or missing three or more components.	The portfolio is adequately organized and includes most, if not all, components.	All components of the portfolio are included, and the organization of the content is clearly evident.	
Purpose and description (X1)	An unclear purpose and description of the music production idea and generation are provided.	The purpose and description are explained adequately.	A clear and concisely written purpose and description of the music production are included.	
Plan of Work log and self-evaluation (X1)	The Plan of Work log and/or self-evaluation are incomplete, and/or missing key components.	The Plan of Work log and/or self-evaluation are somewhat complete and incorporate reflections and efforts of the team.	A complete and concisely written Plan of Work log and self-evaluation are provided and incorporate the efforts and reflections of the team.	
Track timeline (X1)	The track timeline is incomplete and/or not created correctly; the timeline does not correlate with the actual music production.	The track timeline is largely complete and attempts to correlate with the actual music production.	The track timeline is of exemplary quality; it correlates completely with the music production and is easy to follow.	
			SUBTOTAL (40 points)	

Record scores in the column spaces below.

Musical Piece (60 points)

CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points	
Creativity and uniqueness (X1)	The musical idea is overly familiar or is a cliché; no variety or exploration of musical elements (range, timbre, dynamics, tempo, rhythm, and melody) are evident.	The work involves some original aspects or manipulations of musical ideas; it explores and varies at least one or more musical elements.	The piece includes highly original, unusual, or imaginative musical ideas; it explores and varies at least two or more musical elements.	

Musical Piece (continued) (60 points)			
Artisanship (X1)	The piece gives no sense of a completed musical idea; there is no clear beginning, middle, or end section; the form appears random, rather than organized.	One musical element has been used to organize the musical ideas and overall form, which are somewhat coherent.	The piece presents at least one complete musical idea; the piece has a coherent and organized form with a clear beginning, middle, and end; musical elements are used to organize the musical ideas and form.
Energy and style (X1)	The piece lacks liveliness, vitality, and vigor; there is no flair, elegance, or grace to the form.	The piece generates an initial level of energy that appeals to the listener; the style is somewhat distinctive.	The liveliness and forcefulness of the piece excite the listener; the style is truly unique and electrifying.
Appropriateness (X1)	The musical idea or concept is not appropriate and acceptable for use in the event.	The musical idea or concept presented is acceptable and somewhat fitting.	The musical idea or concept presented is fitting and serves as an excellent example of the type of work expected.
Overall appeal (X2)	The work does not present an effective general impression; the musical ideas do not hold the listener's interest.	The work includes some interesting musical ideas; the general impression is pleasant and moderately effective.	There is strong, interesting, and effective audio appeal; the work is designed to be enjoyed by the listeners.
		SUBTOTAL (60 points)	

Time Deductions			
Five (5) points deducted for each five (5) seconds under one (1) minute; five (5) points deducted for each fifteen (15) seconds over three (3) minutes.			
Total time under		Five (5)-second intervals under		Under time deduction	
Total time over		Fifteen (15)-second intervals over		Over time deduction	
			TOTAL TIME DEDUCTION

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points in the sections above) must be initialed by the evaluator, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: _____

Semifinalist Interview (60 points)			
CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points
Organization (X1)	The team/individual seems unprepared and unorganized for the interview.	The team/individual is adequately prepared and organized for the interview.	The interview with judges is logically organized and impressive.
Knowledge (X1)	The team/individual seems to have very little understanding of the concepts and gives vague interview answers.	The team/individual has a generalized understanding of the concepts discussed and answers questions well.	There is clear evidence of a thorough understanding of the concepts discussed.
Articulation (X1)	The interview is full of illogical thoughts that lack understanding and clarity.	The interview is somewhat logical, clear, and concise.	A concise, logical, and clear explanation of the entry is given in the interview.
Delivery (X1)	The team/individual is verbose and/or uncertain in the interview; posture, gestures, and lack of eye contact diminish the delivery.	The team/individual is somewhat well-spoken and clear in the interview; posture, gestures, and eye contact result in an acceptable delivery.	The team/individual is well-spoken and distinct in the interview; posture, gestures, and eye contact result in a polished, natural, and effective delivery.

Semifinalist Interview (continued) (60 points)

LEAP Leadership Resume/Interview See Regulation K and instructions on TSA website (X2)	The individual's or team's efforts are not clearly communicated, lack detail, and/or are unconvincing; few, if any, attempts are made to identify and/or incorporate the LEAP Be. Know. Do. criteria.	The individual's or team's efforts are adequately communicated, include some detail, are clear, and/or are generally convincing; identification and/or incorporation of the LEAP Be. Know. Do. criteria is adequate.	The individual's or team's efforts are clearly communicated, fully-detailed, and convincing; identification and/or incorporation of the LEAP Be. Know. Do. criteria is excellent.	
			SUBTOTAL (60 points)	

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points in the semifinalist section) must be initialed by the evaluator, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right. Indicate the rule violated: _____	

(To arrive at the TOTAL score, add any subtotals and subtract rules violation points, as necessary.)	**TOTAL (160 points)**	

Comments:

I certify these results to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Evaluator

Printed name: _____   Signature: _____