

Song Writing 2025

Purpose: To develop the ability to express spiritual thoughts and feelings in the form of song.

Process:

- Write an original a cappella composition relating to the current year's theme. That is, write a song for voices only; do not include instrumental accompaniment.
- Upload the entry on or before **March 31, 2025**.
- Uploaded files must be .pdf or .doc(x). Do not upload Google Docs.
- Submit your entry as instructed on the NTLTC Submission Events page located at ntltc.org.

Rules:

1. Write an original melody and original lyrics. Do not write words to be sung to the tune of an existing melody. No awards will be given for lyrics only. The lyrics must adhere to this year's LTC theme. You may, instead of writing original lyrics, set a scripture text to music, in which case you must note that fact on your title page.
2. When you have finished your composition, sing your song in someone else's hearing to be sure it is as singable as you think it is. Then try teaching it to someone.
3. Harmony is *not* required, although proper harmonic chords may enhance the composition. Two-part harmony at least is encouraged in the older grade levels. A composition will *not* be penalized for being melody only. Improper harmonic chords may result in lower ratings.
4. More than one person may work on a composition, but the song will be judged in the division of the oldest participant. It is intended that all writers of both words and music be student participants.
5. Submit your entry on paper that is 8-1/2" x 11". It is acceptable to do the scoring by hand or by using computer software. If you do not use preprinted staff paper, take extra care to make your work neat and readable.

Awards:

Ratings and awards of gold, silver, bronze, or honorable mention will be given according to the judging criteria listed.

Judging Criteria:

- **Music** - Pleasing to the ear
- **Range** - Comfortable range, high to low (if parts, each range appropriate)
- **Intervals** - Easy to master
- **Originality/Music** - Creative use of accidentals
- **Lyrics** - Syllables, stress on right beat, etc.
- **LTC Theme** - Adherence to the theme
- **Originality/Lyrics**
- **Aesthetic Value and Fit Melody**
- **Comply to Form** - Participant name, address and grade level; congregation name, phone number; song title; scripture text if used
- **Song Copy** - Neatness, readability of copy, adherence to size requirement

Use of Materials Submitted to NTLTC

Ownership of work submitted to NTLTC as a part of NTLTC events remains the property of the submitter. The participant authorizes use of the entry by the NTLTC Board of Directors in any way the Board may deem appropriate. This may include but is not limited to promotion, fund-raising, or training for the purpose of Christian leadership training of youth.