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 team competing in this event will use the Team LEAP Leadership Resume template; an individual 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.
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 team competing in this event will use the Team LEAP Leadership Resume template; an individual 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