NHIMA 2021 Composition Contest

Composition Guidelines for Orchestra/String Orchestra

- **Accessibility** for several skill levels is encouraged. Full orchestra arrangements that can be successfully performed by a string orchestra are recommended, though not required.
- **Level**: Pieces should be written up to a Grade 3+ level, or Medium Easy.
- **Length** should be around 120 measures, or generate 2 page parts.
- **Keys**: D, G, C, A, F, Bb, Eb
- **Time Signatures** 2/4, 4/4, 3/4, 6/8, and cut time.
- **Rhythmic choices** can be interesting, but not overly complex.
- **Position/shifting**: Violin 1, 2, and Viola up to 3rd position. Cello up to 4th position. Bass up to 5th position. Violin 1 can have occasional 5th position.

**Instrumentation:**

**String Orchestra** – Violin 1, Violin 2, Violin 3 (viola T.C.), Viola, Cello, Bass
Rehearsal piano optional.

**Full Orchestra** - All of the above strings, and add:
Flute 1+2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet 1+2
Trumpet 1,2,3, Horn 1+2, Trombone 1+2
Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Timpani,

**Include optional parts for:**
Bass Clarinet, Alto, Tenor and Baritone Saxophones
Euphonium B.C (with Bb T.C. transposition), Tuba
**Other Considerations**

1. Cross cue all solo lines

2. Timpani: up to 4 drums, allow time for tuning.

3. Percussion 1 is usually reserved for Snare and Bass Drum.

4. Percussion 2 is reserved for Auxiliary parts and should be musically appropriate, but active.

5. Mallets: most orchestras will have bells (other mallets should be cross-cued)

6. Expanded percussion section is encouraged)