The Great Computer Challenge, 2025
Music Composition, Level 4

Background

Music technology is the use of any device, mechanism, machine or tool by a musician or composer to make or perform music; to compose, notate, play back or record songs or pieces; or to analyze or edit music. Many computer programs have been developed for creating music notation (called *scorewriters* or *music notation software*). Music may also be stored in various digital file formats for purposes other than graphic notation output.

Guidelines & Requirements

You are commissioned to compose the opening credits theme for a new fantasy-adventure television drama as described in the Challenge below. *Minimum requirements include*:

1. Compose an original piece that will be played during the opening credits of a fantasy-adventure television series. Fantasy-adventure is a genre of fiction that uses magic and/or other supernatural elements as a main plot element, theme, or setting. These television series often take place in an invented setting with distinct, imaged cultures and geography, and usually contain thrilling situations such as battles, magical creatures, and other supernatural elements.
2. The piece should evoke the genre and tone of the show and should help set the atmosphere for the setting and characters.
3. The entire piece must be an original composition.
4. Give your imagined television series a title and include it in the title of your piece.
5. This piece must include at least two traditional sound sources and one nontraditional sound source.
6. The meter(s) and key(s) are your choice, but they must be clear and definite.
7. Your piece should have a definitive beginning and ending.
8. Your piece must contain **all** of the following elements:
    ● Four different indications of dynamics, including at least one sudden change from loud to soft
    ● At least one variation in rhythm
    ● Variations in texture
    ● Various instances of harmony

IMPORTANT:

REMINDER: Leave your password for the judges if your computer has a locked screensaver. Judges cannot evaluate what they cannot access. Thank you!

Challenge

Problem: You are commissioned to compose an original piece that will be played during the opening credits of a fantasy-adventure television series. Your piece for this challenge The piece should evoke the genre and tone of the show and should help set the atmosphere for the setting and characters. Opening credits music is a song or piece that plays during the opening sequence of a movie or television show. The composition usually accompanies visual imagery that helps set the show's tone, introduces the theme, and prepares the audience for the emotional journey of the series. The opening credits also introduce the title of the series, and sometimes list the names of actors, producers, and other people involved in creating the series.

Judging Criteria

Complete the following problem thoroughly (meeting all criteria) using either multi-track software or a traditional notation software. The judges will (A) review the music on-screen in the software used to prepare it and (B) listen to it aurally.

IMPORTANT: A recording will not be accepted without the on-screen view of the notation.

Points will be awarded for

- meeting minimum requirements - 50%
- creativity and originality - 25%
- musicality (incorporation of musical elements for expression) - 25%

Have fun and thanks for participating in the Great Computer Challenge, 2025!