



GENIUS Music — Student Guide

Music has the power to communicate ideas and emotions in ways that words alone cannot. Through instrumental or vocal performance, GENIUS Music students can raise environmental awareness, celebrate the natural world, explore environmental challenges, and inspire audiences to think or act differently.

Students may submit projects in one of two categories:

- **Solo Performance**, with one performer
- **Group Performance**, with two or three performers

A successful GENIUS Music project brings together:

Musical Skill + Artistic Expression + Environmental Meaning + Audience Impact

Your goal is not only to perform music well, but to use your performance to help your audience feel, understand, or think differently about our relationship with the environment.

Music students may ask to perform live on stage for opening and closing ceremonies. Students may prepare a different performance for this purpose. Students who are interested should send an email.

General Requirements

- **Length and Language**
 - Music should be 2-6 minutes long.
 - Music can be in any language.
 - Any non-English music must include English subtitles, which should be clear, accurate, and easy to read
 - Music titles should be in English and kept under 25 characters.
 - Both categories may include instrumental music, singing, or a combination of vocals and instruments.
- **Allowed Music Type**
 - An existing composition
 - An original composition
 - A traditional or cultural piece
 - A song in English or another language
 - You are not required to compose original music.
 - An existing composition may be used if it was created with reference to nature or the environment, or if the student can demonstrate a meaningful environmental interpretation of the piece.
 - The environmental connection does not have to be expressed directly in the title or lyrics. Instrumental music, traditional music, and other compositions may communicate environmental ideas through their history, inspiration, interpretation, emotion, or cultural meaning
 - The environmental connection should be clearly explained in your Artist Statement.



■ Submission Requirements

- Your completed music performance must be uploaded to **YouTube**.
- Use the following title format:
- GENIUS Olympiad – YEAR: Title of the Project
 - For example: GENIUS Olympiad – 2027: Voices of Forest
- **Submit the YouTube Link** within your application account as Media Link
 - You can NOT upload the video directly into the application account.
 - Your music performance will be reviewed through the submitted YouTube link for the initial evaluation.
 - Before submitting your application, test the link to make sure the video can be viewed by others.
- **YouTube settings:**
 - Your music does not necessarily need to be publicly searchable, but GENIUS judges must be able to access it.
 - If using YouTube's Unlisted setting, make sure anyone with the link can view the video.
 - Do not make the video Private, because reviewers may not be able to access it.
 - Keep the submitted video accessible throughout the application and judging process.
- Rights to Submitted Creative Work
 - By submitting your project, students grant GENIUS Olympiad permission to use submitted creative work for purposes related to the program.
 - This may include uses such as judging, event presentations, GENIUS publications, educational materials, program promotion, GENIUS websites and social media

Category Descriptions and Requirements:

MUSIC | Solo Performance

Solo Performance is for **one student performing live** through instrumental or vocal music

The student must sing live during the GENIUS Olympiad Finals.

The student may:

- Play an instrument live
- Sing live
- Play an instrument and sing live at the same time
- Perform with pre-recorded instrumental accompaniment
- Perform an existing composition
- Perform an original composition
- Perform a traditional or cultural piece
- Perform music in English or another language

Musical accompaniment may be:

- Live instrumental accompaniment, when appropriate
- Pre-recorded instrumental accompaniment or playback
- Performed by the student while singing



If using pre-recorded accompaniment, the student must bring a **high-quality playback audio file** to the competition.

The recorded accompaniment should support the student's live performance and should not replace the student's primary performance.

Solo performers may perform any appropriate musical instrument.

MUSIC | Group Performance

Group Performance is for **two or three students performing together**.

Groups may include:

- Instrumental ensembles
- Vocal ensembles
- Vocal and instrumental combinations
- Small bands
- Traditional or cultural music groups
- Original compositions
- Existing compositions
- Mixed vocal and instrumental performances

Each participating student should make a meaningful contribution to the performance.

Students should understand the overall project and be prepared to explain their individual roles and how those contributions support the musical and environmental message.