

FROM THE ARCHIVES



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In the last issue we took a look at a conference program from the roots of WSMTA. Today, we're going to zoom forward in time to the Young Composer's Project. Launched in 1955, the Young Composer's Project has been giving students an opportunity to receive professional feedback on their compositions for 65 years.

In 1956 the guidelines for the Young Composer's Project included four different classes in which students were encouraged to compose chants (single or double) written in any texture; a song or dance minimum 24 measures, a vocal composition with the text Biblical, original, or by a contemporary poet; or one or more movements of Sonata for instrument, chamber group, small or large orchestra with a playing time of 6 minutes. Stephen Balogh, Chair of the Young Composer's Project at the time, wrote:

"I am sure that Leopold has shown little Wolfgang through many "bass lines" before the young man felt independent enough to create his own. And how many Mozarts do you think we hide in our

state? Let's ask every pupil of ours to create so that we may not be denied the precious experience of seeing the probable little Mozarts emerge from their hiding places. Now may I ask you all to roll up your sleeves please. Put your best ingenuity and persuasion power over your pupils and send in so many entries that the hours of judging will really become arduous."

The first image is the cover of the Young Composers Recital at the 1968 State Conference. Among the many teachers and students listed inside, WSMTA member Mrs. Carolyn Malnes is still teaching! The second image is from a handout attendees of the 1986 State Conference received with tips about how to integrate composing into regular lessons. The rules don't mention anything about chants, but do specify that compositions for more than one instrument should include a tape at a speed of 7 1/2 IPS on 1 or 1/2 mil tape, reel-to-reel.

Whether reel-to-reel, small orchestra, MIDI-file, or MP3, WSMTA will continue to help teachers uncover hidden Mozarts through the Young Composer's Project!—*Carrie Kahler, Administrative Coordinator*

