



2020–2021 EXPRESS THE MUSIC CONTEST: WRITING
Second Annual Contest for Trenton Central High School Students

ANNOUNCEMENT

In celebration of Arts in Our Schools Month, the Neighborhood Music Project is pleased to announce the 2020-21 **Express the Music Contest**—a contest designed to capture the impact of music and the arts, as perceived by Trenton Central High School and 9th Grade Academy students. **This year’s contest, limited to writing entries only, asks participants to respond to the prompt: “What have the arts meant to you during the pandemic?”** Entries will be evaluated anonymously by a panel of judges from across the Princeton University campus. Preference will be given to submissions that incorporate a specific artistic work as a point of reference. For example, participants can write about their favorite work(s) of creative writing, dance, film, music, theater, or visual art.

THE PRIZE

The First Prize winner will be awarded an **iPad, Apple Pencil, and Smart Cover** (\$500 value). Honorable Mention winners will be awarded Jabra Elite 45h headphones (\$100 value). Submissions are due by Monday, April 19, 2021. The winning entry(ies) will be announced and publicly distributed on Thursday, May 20, 2021. Princeton University Concerts and Trenton Arts at Princeton may incorporate the winning entry(ies) into future print and online materials.

ACCEPTED FORMATS

Reflection on the prompt can take a number of forms—essay, blank verse, prose, poetry, narrative, even lyrics—but participants are encouraged to use a specific artistic work (creative writing, dance, film, music, theater, visual arts) as at least one point of reference in the submission and to approach the prompt from a personal perspective. Submissions should be no more than 1,000 words and speak to a broad audience. Participants may submit a brief personal statement with their submission, clarifying intention or providing any additional information that may be useful to the jury, such as the title of the referenced artistic work(s).

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

The Express the Music Contest is open to all currently enrolled Trenton Central High School and 9th Grade Academy students. *Please note:* If you won first prize in a past Express the Music Contest, you are ineligible to participate in this year’s contest.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. REGISTER

All participants must register to participate in the contest. Registrants will receive an email confirmation. Registration is non-binding--if you are interested in participating but not sure if you will end up submitting an entry, please register regardless.

[REGISTER HERE>](#)

2. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All submissions are due by the end of the day on Monday, April 19, 2021.

Submission guidelines are as follows:

- The Express the Music Contest is open to all currently enrolled Trenton Central High School and 9th Grade Academy students. *(Please note: If you won first prize in a past Express the Music Contest, you are ineligible to participate in this year's contest.)*
- Participants are welcome to submit as many entries as they like.
- Entries must be submitted electronically as a Microsoft Word or PDF document and must be no longer than 1,000 words.
- Preference will be given to submissions that include a specific artistic work as a point of reference. For example, participants can write about their favorite work(s) of creative writing, dance, film, music, theater, or visual art.
- The body of the submission email should contain the writer's full name, grade level, small learning community, and telephone number.
- All submissions are due by email to [Lou Chen](#), Program Manager for Trenton Arts at Princeton, by Monday, April 19, 2021. Email: lvchen@princeton.edu

[SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY HERE>](#)

PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT

The first prize and any potential honorable mentions will be announced on Thursday, May 20, 2021. Winners will be notified prior to the announcement.

BACKGROUND

For its historic 125th anniversary during the 2018-19 season, Princeton University Concerts brought conductor Gustavo Dudamel to campus as its first Artist-in-Residence for a year-long residency designed to propel classical music forward in a vibrant and socially relevant manner. Celebrated by the campus and broader community, this residency inspired a new outreach program, the **Neighborhood Music Project**,

conceived to reinforce Maestro Dudamel's commitment to music as a force for uniting communities, empowering young people, and promoting positive social change. The **Neighborhood Music Project** is a collaboration between Princeton University Concerts and Trenton Arts at Princeton.

The **Express the Music Contest** is inspired by the popular Creative Reactions Contest for Princeton University undergraduate and graduate students. To view the winning entries from the 2019-20 **Express the Music Contest**, click [here](#).

QUESTIONS?

For all questions, please email Trenton Arts at Princeton Program Manager [Lou Chen](#) at lychen@princeton.edu.