



**TO:** All Music Teachers of 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grades.  
**FROM:** Carol Competition Committee, Fort Worth Civic Orchestra.  
**DATE:** August 25, 2025

Dear Music Teacher,

Now that the new school year is underway, it is time to start planning for the annual Fort Worth Civic Orchestra Carol Writing Competition.

Open to all 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, this contest gives young aspiring composers and songwriters an opportunity to write a seasonal carol, have it professionally orchestrated, normally for full orchestra and voice, and then hear it performed in concert as our guest at our annual Teddy Bear Concert. The 2025 Teddy Bear Concert is scheduled for Saturday, December 13, 2025.

Your carol should feel seasonal, celebrating Fall or Winter. You can base it on holidays like Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year, Winter Solstice, Las Posadas, Diwali, or any other traditions that happen during Winter Break. Or, you can just go with a general wintry or festive theme. It can be composed by an individual student, a group of students, or an entire class. Teachers may help in the refinement and charting of the song, but the melodies and lyrics must be originated by the students. If the teacher writes out the song by hand or using software, please include a copy of the student's original work in the package. Judging will be based on the melody, lyrics, and suitability to being orchestrated for large orchestra and voice (either choir or solo voice.)

Entries will need to be received no later than **Saturday, October 11, 2025**. Minimum requirements for submission are a charted melody line with words written under the music in song form indicating the fit of the lyrics with the melody. The entry package must also include a submission form for each carol submitted and identifying information on each sheet of paper included.

Additional information, previous winners, and the online entry form can be found <https://fwco.org/holiday-carol-contest/>.

Sincerely,  
Dan Stevens  
Fort Worth Civic Orchestra Carol Competition Committee.



## **Annual Carol Competition - 2025**

### **CONTEST HELP SHEET**

Compose a melody with words in carol form depicting a holiday theme. Teacher help will possibly be needed in writing down and refining the music, and this is acceptable, but the creative aspects of composing the original melodies and lyrics is expected to be the student's. Remember, this is going to be orchestrated for full orchestra, so more than one verse is encouraged. Examples of past winner entries can be found at [fwco.org/holiday-carol-contest](http://fwco.org/holiday-carol-contest) as well as some videos of winning carols being performed.

The contest is open to 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Entries must be received on or before Saturday, October 11, 2025. Please include a separate submittal form for each carol.**

The judges will select the winner or winners, grading the composition on the basis of melody, lyrics, and suitability for adaptation to a full orchestral arrangement. The carol will then be orchestrated and performed by the FWCO at our annual Teddy Bear Concert. At this concert, the winning students and their teachers will be recognized.

All winning submittals, as well as the finished, orchestrated works, will become the property of the Fort Worth Civic Orchestra.

**Submit contest entries online at [fwco.org/carol-contest-entry](http://fwco.org/carol-contest-entry)**

Or by **E-mail:** [competitions@fwco.org](mailto:competitions@fwco.org).

Or by **Mail:**  
FWCO Carol Competition  
c/o Daniel Stevens  
4251 Crestline Rd  
Fort Worth, TX 76107

To arrange a **drop-off of paper entries**, please contact:  
Dan Stevens: email [competitions@fwco.org](mailto:competitions@fwco.org) or call/text 817-765-3622.



**2025 Fort Worth Civic Orchestra Carol Competition**  
Submittal Form – **one form per submitted carol.**

Title of Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Composing Student(s) (or class description if entire class):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

School/District/City: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name and Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Name and Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I attest that the submitted entry is, to the best of my knowledge, the original work of the student(s) listed above.

Teacher's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do Not Write in Box – FWCO use only*

**Date Received:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Received by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Requirements Met:**    Yes    No

**Judges Composite Score:**

**Melody:** \_\_\_\_\_    **Lyrics:** \_\_\_\_\_    **Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Ranking:** \_\_\_\_\_    Use: Yes    No

**NOTES:**