



DARIEN

Young Composers and Songwriters

Attention Young Composers and Songwriters! The Darien Public Schools Music Department will be sponsoring the 26th annual *Darien Young Composers and Songwriters Concert* on **Wednesday, April 8th at 6:30 P.M.** in the Darien High School Auditorium. This program is open to all students currently enrolled in the Darien Public Schools. It is a great opportunity for students to compose their own original music and share it with an audience. Please read the guidelines below and speak to your school music teacher if you have any questions.

Guidelines and Rules

1. Compose an original song! All compositions must be student-created, but may have the guidance of a music teacher or parent. Adding new lyrics to an existing song is not allowed. See checklist on opposite side for assessment criteria.
2. Submit a Google form (link below) and upload a digital file of a live video recording of the student performing the piece and a copy of the composition/written representation on or before **Monday, March 9th**. While exact notation is not required, your written notation must be clear in giving us an indication of how the song was developed.
3. A committee will review the compositions and notify students who are accepted.
4. If your song requires accompaniment (piano, guitar, or ukulele), a teacher will contact you to arrange a rehearsal time after school prior to the concert.
5. Selected composers must perform their composition at the concert.

Use this [link](#) or QR Code to upload all the required information:



Darien Young Composers and Songwriters 2026 Submission Checklist and Feedback

FOR TEACHER USE ONLY

Student Name(s): _____ Grade: _____

School (circle one): Hindley / Holmes / Ox Ridge / Royle / Tokeneke / MMS / DHS

Title: _____ Instrument: _____ Length: _____ minute(s)

The following must be submitted to be accepted:

- Completed Application Form
- Digital Recording
- Written Score/Representation

Musicianship

- The composition demonstrates musicianship that meets or exceeds grade level expectations.

Performance

- The performance of the piece is well-prepared and technically accurate.

Originality

- The composition is based on original musical ideas or sounds arranged in an original way.

Musical Elements

The following elements were clearly demonstrated and contributed to the overall composition:

- Melody: Includes tune, main idea, theme or motif
- Harmony: Accompaniment and chords support the melody
- Rhythm: Pulse, meter and tempo are consistent and appropriate
- Form: Demonstrates a unifying organization of musical sections and sounds
- Expression: Musical ideas contribute to mood, feelings and/or subject matter of the piece

Comments _____

Selection

- Congratulations! Based on the checklist and comments above, your piece has been selected for the 2026 Young Composers and Songwriters concert.
- Based on the checklist and comments above, your piece has not been selected for the 2026 Young Composers and Songwriters concert. Thank you for your submission. Please use the checklist and comments as feedback for future submissions, and we hope to hear a piece you composed in a future concert!