

Dear Zhenhan Xie,

Congratulations! We are delighted to inform you that you are awarded **First Place with Special Honours and Distinction Plus** at the Red Maple Composition Competition, Intermediate, 15 - 16 years old, for Leaves Drift Blossoms Wane.

Here are the comments from our judges:

*Thank you for sharing such a beautiful composition! Drawing directly from classical Chinese poetry and dividing the work into eight clearly labeled sections gives the composition a strong narrative and emotional logic, while the careful form and musical texture guide the listener through distinct characters and moods. Each section has its own charm and distinct character that shapes and supports your musical choices. You've done a wonderful job conveying each poem's intent, such as unique message in each poem, though all combined by the same theme of Autumn. As I mentioned just earlier, the form progression is very interesting and guides the listener through a strong narrative arc. I especially liked the unique instrumental sound effects you use in your composition, such as glissandi, pizzicato and strumming techniques. Those give the piece a fresh, evocative voice. Wide range of registers, including very low pitch notes add a compelling, menacing, and unique color to the timbre. The choice of instrumentation is good as well. String instruments warmth combined with more of "cold" timbre of clarinet gives a perfect combination to your composition. The contrapuntal texture with conversational intent between instruments represents the character, adding to the form and texture of the piece. Very well paced and prepared culmination as well. Overall, this is a vivid, thoughtfully constructed work that succeeds both emotionally and texturally! Thank you for sharing your composition with us. Looking forward to hearing more of your works.*

Please find your Certificate on the website. If you indicated that you have a teacher and/or an accompanist, their Certificates are also on the website. For your convenience all certificates are in PDF for printing and JPG for posting on social media. Please download the certificates within next two months.

We are thrilled to inform you that your composition will be performed at the Winners' Recital followed by the Award Ceremony that will be held in Toronto, Canada, in Summer, 2026.

We will send more details regarding the registration, the exact dates, and the venue later. Please, always check your spam/junk email folder to do not miss any important information.

Please register for the recital at the following link by October 30th, 2025:

<https://www.pulsar-music.com/recitals>

Payments after the deadline will not be accepted due to the high volume of participants. Please note that the recital registration fees are not refundable and can not be substituted.

Please find your performance information below:

1. Excerpt from Excerpt from Leaves Drift Blossoms Wane (piano arrangement) will be listed in the recital program as your composition. Please contact local pianist Victor Cheng at [chengvictor@gmail.com](mailto:chengvictor@gmail.com) for arrangements to perform an excerpt from your composition. The duration of the excerpt must be no longer than three minutes.
2. If you need an official invitation letter from the Competition to apply for the visa, you may provide this letter.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Toronto! In addition, Pulsar Music is happy to invite all Winners' Recital and Award Ceremony participants, their teachers, and family members to join us at other social events after the recital date, such as a trip to Niagara Falls and the Toronto Aquarium.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ekaterina Paniukova, CEO of Pulsar Music

Red Maple Music Competition

Website: <https://www.pulsar-music.com/>

Email: [info@pulsar-music.com](mailto:info@pulsar-music.com)

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