

Dear Izabela Wiktorja Oliwia Torfs,

Congratulations! We are delighted to inform you that you are awarded **Second Place with Special Honours and Distinction** at the Rocky Mountain Composition Competition, Junior Category, 13 - 14 years old, for The Weeping Willow.

Here are the comments from our judges:

This is an exceptionally creative and imaginative project. You have not only composed the music, but also created a complete story and visual world around it, which gives the work a very strong sense of identity and purpose. The narrative is compelling, and the music supports the story very effectively. I especially liked the way you handled the transitions between different scenes; they feel natural and help the story move forward clearly. One area I would encourage you to explore further is the differentiation between instrumental characters and timbres. Since you are intentionally working in a "Mickey Mousing" style, where the music closely follows and illustrates the action, each change of instrument can become an important storytelling device. At the moment, I can hear different instruments taking the leading role at different points in the score, but the musical character often remains quite similar from one instrument to the next. This makes me wonder what each instrumental change is meant to communicate. You might ask yourself: why does this particular instrument enter here? Does it represent Calder, Isla, a memory, a supernatural element, or a shift in the emotional atmosphere? What changes in the story when the timbre changes? If each instrument develops its own musical identity, colour, articulation, register, or characteristic gesture, the listener may begin to associate particular sounds with specific characters, emotions, or events. Because your story already contains so many distinct emotional layers — grief, memory, love, unease, the supernatural, and finally a kind of peaceful resolution — there is a wonderful opportunity to make those contrasts even more vivid through orchestration. A change of instrument could signal not only a new musical colour, but also a new dramatic perspective or development in the story. Overall, this is a highly original and thoughtful composition. The storytelling, visuals, and music work together very well, and your understanding of the "Mickey Mousing" concept is clear. The next step is to make the instrumental choices feel just as intentional and character-specific as the story itself. There is already a great deal of creativity here, and developing that connection between timbre and character could make the piece even more distinctive and memorable.

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 invite you to 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 Award Ceremony at the following link by October 9, 2026: <https://www.pulsar-music.com/award-ceremony>

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.

Details: The Registration Fee includes admission to the hall, one set of a trophy, a certificate, and a teacher's diploma, four complimentary tickets for family members to enter the recital hall, and a set of digital photos taken by a professional photographer during the Award Ceremony on the stage. You will be invited to the stage to receive your trophy and certificates, and your name will be printed in the event brochure. Please note that you will not be playing on the stage.

In addition, Pulsar Music is happy to invite all Award Ceremony participants, their teachers, and family members to join us at other social events after the ceremony date, such as a trip to Niagara Falls and the Toronto Aquarium.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ekaterina Paniukova, CEO of Pulsar Music

Rocky Mountain Music Competition
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