

Dear Ziyue Zhou,

Congratulations! We are delighted to inform you that you are awarded **First Place with Honours** at the Royal Sound Composition Competition, Intermediate, 15 - 16 years old, for *The edge of gravity*.

Here are the comments from our judges:

*This is such a unique and vivid theme for a composition. You created a clear musical picture that is well supported by both the narrative story and the musical materials used for that story. The piece is full of sparks and imaginative compositional choices that naturally support the overall plot and the form development. Well done! In Section A, your choice of instrumentation works very well. The organ timbre adds a deep, "cosmic" atmosphere that helps us feel the vastness of space and picture the scene through the music. Section B continues the narrative effectively, with a nice sense of interaction between the instrumental lines that suggests exploration and movement. Also, a great transition to the next section. Section C is especially strong: the rhythmic shift feels vivid and energizing, creating an organic contrast to the first two sections, developing a new set of musical elements but still naturally unfolding the same story. I like your harmonic choices and how they support the construction of the form. The form feels clear and easy to follow. Ending section: the menacing sound in the lower register, together with the tremolos in the higher register, creates a powerful culmination and a dramatic image of the spacecraft struggling against the planet's pull. The ending is strong and conclusive, with well-paced musical progression—it really feels like the moment of breaking free. Overall, this is well done. Instrumentation, form progression, articulation, and instrumental effects all work together to support the narrative of the composition, making it engaging and easy for listeners to follow the "cosmic journey" from start to finish. Keep exploring more musical effects, such as modes, advanced harmonies, abilities of different instruments in registers and special effects, as these will help you create even greater variety and color in your upcoming compositions. Keep up the good work! Thank you for sharing your composition.*

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 December 15th, 2025: <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

Royal Sound Music Competition  
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