



# CCMA GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITION (PLEASE READ ENTIRETY)

## Performance Entries Qualifications:

1. Performers must be at least 3 years old and a member of CCMA.
2. Competition is open to amateur & professional performers who are not signed to a major label.
3. All performers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent **or** legal guardian.

## Scheduling:

1. Performers may perform 2 songs per performance category or 8 minutes. At 7 minutes 30 seconds, a warning will be issued by CCMA official. Points will be removed after 8 minutes, 6 seconds. (see penalty section)
2. Once a category is entered, no changes can be made to any entries. There will be no exceptions made to this rule due to our scheduling. **All entries are final once the CCMA office receives them.**

## Penalties

Performers who exceed 8 minutes will be penalized as follows:  
6 seconds-2 points, 7 seconds-3 points, 8 seconds-4 points, etc.

## Categories

1. Performers can enter under 1 style of music only with the exception of instrumental, vocal duo, & or vocal group. Example: Performers entering the Male Vocalist of the Year Category, must select 1 style to perform during their performance in competition.
2. Performers can enter as many categories as they wish, but they will not be allowed to compete against themselves. Example: if they enter under duo with someone, they may not enter Duo with someone else, also.
3. Performers may not cross over and perform in multiple categories. Example: an artist who enters under "Male Vocalist of the Year-Traditional Country" must perform this style in all other single categories.
4. Instrumentalist of the Year or Instrumentalist Duo of the Year may play songs from either country, gospel, or bluegrass styles. Bands are excluded.

## Background Music

1. Performers may choose to either use bands to back them or background accompaniment cassette tapes or CDs. Selection numbers of performance songs on CD's and their proper order of play must be neatly written or typed on the CD jewel case or placed inside the plastic wrap.
2. All performers who enter as an individual performer will be judged by **ONLY THEIR INDIVIDUAL** performance, not the performance of the Band behind them; nor the way they interact with the band since the band is not really there in the eyes of the judges. The performer shall refrain from interacting with the band when entering as a vocalist, duo, or entertainer and the performer should be able to stand alone as a vocalist or entertainer without any interaction with the band. In order for a band to be judged, they must enter as "Band". This keeps the playing field level for all contestants.
3. All tapes must be properly cued. This means there should be no more than 2-4 seconds blank space in front of each song. Tapes not properly cued or in proper order will be returned to the performer for re-cueing and the show will continue with the next performer.
4. Performers are required to place 2 songs for each performance category on one cassette tape in order of the performance. (or CD)

## Acceptable Music Styles

1. Performers must perform either country, gospel, or bluegrass, whether the songs are original material (written by the artist or other songwriter) or commercially –accepted songs with current or previous airplay in those markets. Artists must use careful discretion on determining what style their music falls under or risk penalty. Artists who choose songs outside the market or outside of any of these styles will be penalized.

### **CCMA Judge Qualifications**

1. Judges must be a member of the CCMA organization.
2. Judges are selected from a vast pool of qualified resources: radio & television personnel, songwriters, record label reps, publishing reps, country, gospel, or bluegrass fans, etc.
3. Judges who know contestants will be substituted during performance or songwriting judging.
4. Several alternate judges will be selected to relieve other judges during competition.
5. Selected judges will meet with CCMA personnel prior to judging for guidelines and to ask questions.

### **Judges Performance Criteria**

Quality of performance; Originality of performance/arrangement; Star Quality Performance; Tightness of Performance; Stage Presence; How well the material reflects country/gospel/bluegrass; Overall rating of the contestant.

### **Judges Scoring System**

6 points- Outstanding; 5 points- Excellent; 4 Points-Very Good; 3 Points- Good; 2 points-Average; 1 point-Below Average

### **Award Show Policy**

It is mandatory that all winning contestants MUST attend the CCMA Awards Show to receive their award. The CCMA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or misplaced awards.

### **Songwriting Entry Guidelines**

1. Songwriters may enter up to 2 songs per songwriting category.
2. Songwriters may enter songs which have never won previous CCMA competitions (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place)
3. Songwriters must have tapes properly cued. This should place the position of the tape at the very beginning of the song.
4. Songwriters may submit single songs on cassettes or CD's, but must either cue tapes to the starting position of the single song or indicate the selection number on the CD.
5. Songwriters must submit anonymous lyric sheets with their anonymously marked tape or CD for judging.
6. Songwriters should fold an 8.5 x 11 (typing or notebook paper) vertically in half, then wrap or tri-fold the lyric sheet and place it around the outside of the tape. The tape and lyric sheet must be bound together by a rubber band or placed inside a clear plastic tape box.
7. Lyric sheet must be submitted with neatly written or type-written lyrics.
8. The songwriter's identity will be unknown to the judges, who will judge the submissions using a numerical code.
9. Songwriters may submit as many styles as they wish for judging. They are excluded from the performer's single music style rule.
10. If a songwriter submits material co-written by other songwriters and the co-writers are to be credited during the awards show if designated as a winner, a \$25.00 entry fee is required for each co-writer.

### **Performance Attire:**

1. You may not wear any high heels as this would damage the Gibson Mansions floors.