

2018 NC BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL SINGER-SONGWRITER COMPETITION GUIDELINES

GREETINGS,

WE ARE SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS YEAR'S SINGER-SONGWRITER COMPETITION. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL FIND ALL OF THE NECESSARY INFORMATION LISTED BELOW TO ASSIST IN YOU ENTERING YOUR MUSIC FOR THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION. WE HAVE A GREAT PANEL OF JUDGES THIS YEAR AND CANNOT WAIT TO HEAR YOUR MUSIC. THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST.

CONTEST RULES:

1) Income – The 2018 NC Blackberry Festival Singer-Songwriter Contest is open to those whose primary source of income (50% or more) is not derived from songwriting or publishing. Income from performing gigs is not songwriting income. Be aware that some songwriters may play their music on tour or have their own album.

2) Original Work - All entries must be the original work of the contestant and shall not infringe on any copyright or any other rights of any third party. Contestant may enter as many songs as desired, but this does not necessarily increase the chances of winning. A separate entry form and payment must be included with each entry.

3) Musical Composition - Each song submitted must include instrumentation and lyrics. **NO INSTRUMENTAL SONGS.** Lyrics should also be written and recorded in English. Songs may be written by an individual writer or co-written.

4) Online Entries - The online entry form and signature on entry form constitutes each song submitted is an original work and releases The NC Blackberry Festival, Sponsors, and the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce from all liability. Entry also constitutes permission to use winner's name, likeness, photographs and videos for future advertising and publicity without compensation.

5) All Entries - Only entries submitted according to the rules will be considered. No deadline extensions.

6) Entry Fees - All entry fees are non-refundable.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

- No pre-recorded tracks will be allowed. Songs may be written by an individual writer or co-written. All authors must be included in the entry form.

- Entries must submit original works via Youtube link, or MP3 via email to Joshua Marsh (joshua@caldwellchambernc.com)
- The fee to enter is \$25.00. Multiple entries may be submitted but separate forms and fees must be included for each song.
- Entry fees can be submitted online through the Chamber website, adding credit card information to the entry form, or by mailing a check to 1909 Hickory Blvd SE, Lenoir, NC, 28645.
- Submitted files will not be considered for competition until entry fees have been processed.
- Entries will be accepted until May 16th.
- Finalist will be notified on June 6th.
- Finalist will be invited to perform at the Blackberry Jam on Friday, July 13th from 6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
- Finalist will have a 10 minutes time slot to perform their original submission during the night of the finals.
- Times of performances will be communicated via e-mail to all finalists.
- A panel of three judges will decide the final winner of the competition on the evening of the finals.
- Awards
 - The first place winner will win a \$300 Grand Prize.
 - The second place winner will win \$150.
 - The third place winner will win a \$75.
- If you are unable to perform on the night of the finals, then your spot will be assigned to another performer.

PERFORMANCE:

The on-site live competition takes place at the Main Street Stage in Downtown Lenoir, North Carolina during the Blackberry Jam on Friday, July 13th. Each song in the finals must be performed live by the composer (and/or co-writer), with no more than one accompanist. When there are two or more songwriters, the limit on stage is three individuals. No pre-recorded tracks will be allowed. Songs which result in a tie will be decided based upon the highest score given to a song by an individual judge.

JUDGING:

Entries will be judged by a panel of musicians and writers. Please know that all submissions are listened to and treated fairly by our judges. Music production and performance quality are not considered. All decisions by judges will be final. Finalists will be determined and posted on the website (ncblackberryfestival.com) by June 6th. Only finalists will be personally notified. No entrants will be provided with scores or evaluations of their entries; it is not feasible at this time due to the number of entries.

Each song in the finals must be performed live by the composer, with no more than one accompanist other than a co-writer and no performances can be pre-recorded.

The First place winner will also perform a 25-30-minute set on the Main Stage of the NC Blackberry Festival on Saturday between 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

2018 NC BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL SINGER-SONGWRITER ENTRY FORM

Contestant Name(s): _____

Song Author(s): _____

Name of Accompanist (if applicable): _____

Title of Song: _____

Instrumentation used: _____

Checklist (Please check all appropriate boxes before submitting):

- Payment of \$25.00 entry fee (Note: If submitting multiple entries please specify number of entries so that we only run your credit card one time). Also, fill out additional entry forms with additional song information. You may also send one check with all entry fees included.**
 - Number of Entries:** _____
 - Online payment through caldwellchambernc.com or ncblackberryfestival.com**
 - Mailed check to Caldwell Chamber of Commerce, Attn: NC Blackberry Festival, 1909 Hickory Blvd SE, Lenoir NC, 28645 (payable to Caldwell Chamber of Commerce)**
 - Credit Card (Note: If submitting multiple entries please specify number of entries so that we only run your credit card one time). Also, fill out additional entry forms with additional song information.**
 - Name on Card:** _____
 - Zip Code of Card:** _____
 - Credit Card #:** _____
 - Exp. Date:** _____
 - Security code:** _____
- Submit song via mp3, youtube link, to Joshua Marsh, Festival Director of the NC Blackberry Festival at joshua@caldwellchambernc.com.**
- Submit Entry Form**
 - Scan entry form and submit via email to Joshua Marsh (joshua@caldwellchambernc.com)**
 - Mail entry form (postmarked no later than May 17th) to Caldwell Chamber of Commerce attn: NC Blackberry Festival, 1909 Hickory Blvd SE, Lenoir, NC, 28645.**

Signature: _____ Date: _____