

2020 Singing News Songwriters Search Info Sheet

Where do I mail my form, lyric sheet, entry fee, and recording to enter the contest?

Singing News Songwriters Search, 402 BNA Drive, Ste. 400, Nashville, TN 37217

What does the “with song critique” option (on entry form) mean?

The judges will provide written feedback for those songs, which will be mailed to the entrant at the conclusion of the contest.

Does my song have to be set to music? I have lyrics but no music. *Yes, the lyrics must be set to music.*

Does my song need to be professionally recorded? *No. It just needs to be recorded so the judges can clearly hear the words and melody.*

Is my song required to have musical accompaniment? *We will accept entries with vocals only, but we **strongly** suggest that you include some type of accompaniment. A full band isn't necessary; a simple guitar or piano accompaniment is fine.*

Do I need to provide sheet music? *No, we'd rather receive the lyrics as words alone, NOT in a sheet music format. It is helpful to include headers for each section of lyrics, such as Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus, etc., so the judges can easily see how the song is structured.*

Does my song need to have recorded harmony parts? *No. You can record harmony if you like, but it's not required.*

Can I send my song on a cassette tape, videotape, or DVD? *No, the recording must be either on a CD or sent as an mp3 or WAV file.*

How will my song be judged? *Our judges will evaluate your song in the following categories:*

1) Originality – Do the song's theme and lyrics sound fresh and new, or are they reminiscent of other popular Southern Gospel songs?

2) Structure – Are the parts of the song in an order that makes sense? Is there a flow between the verses, chorus, etc.? Is the rhyme scheme consistent throughout the song?

3) Melody – Is the melody interesting, and does it work cohesively with the lyric to support the main idea of the song?

4) Rhythm – Does the rhythm reflect the subject matter? Is the rhythm consistent and easy to follow?

5) Suitability – Is this song in the style of the 11th Hour trio's music?

Can I submit a song written by someone else (like a loved one who has passed away)?

No, unless you co-wrote the song with them.

If I want to submit an mp3 or WAV file, how does that work? *Entry forms, lyric sheets, and entry fees should be mailed to the address at the top of this page. Please indicate on the entry form that the song(s) will be emailed as an mp3 or WAV file. You can email the song to Deb Patterson at dpatterson@salempublishing.com. If the file is larger than 14 MB, send it using this link: <https://filetransfer.salem.cc/filedrop/dpatterson@salempublishing.com>. For emailed recordings, please include a note with your name and address so we can match it to your mailed paperwork. Or, you may send the digital recording(s) on a USB drive.*

Will my CD or USB drive be mailed back to me when the contest is over? *No, sorry, with the volume of entries we receive, we are unable to return them.*

How do I fill out the entry form for a cowritten song? *List all the writers' names, but we only need contact information for you. In addition, all writers must be eligible according to contest rules.*

Can I send all the songs on one CD? *Yes, but it's to your advantage to send them on separate CDs so we can send your music to more than one judge.*

Can I send my entry form and lyric sheet with the audio file on a flash drive? *No, we ask that you provide hard copies of the entry form and lyric sheet.*

If I know someone who wants to enter, where can they get information and an entry form? *The quickest way is to download the form at www.singinqnews.com/songwriter. If you are unable to do this, contact Deb Patterson at 615-850-7032 or dpatterson@salempublishing.com.*

When and how will I know who has won the contest? *Winners will be announced on our website, www.singinqnews.com, on Monday, June 29, 2020, on our Facebook page, and in the August or September issue of the print magazine.*

One more important note: *The top two winning songs will be added to the publishing catalog of Crossroads Label Group.*