

**IMMERSE**  
**Artist 2010**  
**National Competition Rules**  
*Nashville, TN*

The **Immerse Artist of 2010 National Competition** is the Christian music industry's official talent competition for unsigned acts. At the *National Competition* all ARTISTS compete "live" – from preliminary stages through the finals.

Winners from the various GMA regional events automatically advance to the semifinal round of the *National Competition*, then compete together with the Immerse contestants for the grand prize titles, including: **Solo 2010, Group 2010, and Band 2010.**

The **Artist and Song 2010 National Finals** takes place on Saturday evening on the main stage, as part of the evening concert series at *Immerse*. Three judges will provide LIVE feedback during the show. These judges and a selection of industry judges in attendance will make the final decisions. Awards for all ARTIST and SONG categories will be presented at the close of the Saturday evening concert.

***QUALIFICATIONS***

- All ARTIST contestants must register for the *Immerse* event. One official member of a competing group must register at the full rate. However, additional members may register at the additional group member rate. (See registration form)
- A BAND contest group rate is available. (See registration form)
- Contestants must be at least 13 years of age to compete.
- Registration and any applicable entry fees or materials must be received by the deadlines listed above in order to be eligible to compete in the National Competition.
- A grand prize winner is not eligible to compete at future GMA Academy competitions in the same category in which they won their grand prize.
- Occasionally there will be winners from events earlier in the year that will not be required to participate in the preliminary round of competition. They will be automatically entered into the semi-final round.

**ARTIST 2010 CATEGORIES**

- **SOLO**  
*Includes: all ages above 13 years. Entrants are judged on vocal ability, not background accompaniment.*
- **DUET / GROUP**  
*Includes: Duet, Small or Large Group (2+ members singing together in harmony or unison. An accompanist who sings along with a soloist simply for the purpose of back-up does not qualify as a group)  
Entrants are judged on vocal ability, not background accompaniment.*
- **BAND**  
*Band must consist of at least 3 people, including 1 vocalist and 2 instrumentalists*

**The Artist 2010 competition is inclusive of all musical styles and genres of Christian music**, including: Pop/ Rock / Inspirational / Adult Contemporary / Southern gospel / Country / Bluegrass / Urban gospel / Latin / Rap / Hip Hop. You will be judged based upon the artistic excellence of your performance within your musical style. Representatives from various genres will participate in the preliminary screening and judging. *Please designate your musical style on your registration form.*

## **ARTIST RULES**

- An individual may enter the ARTIST competition as a soloist and as part of a group or band, at \$50 per entry, but may compete no more than twice.
- You may enter the competition even if you have performed with a recognized group, as long as you were not the recognized artist, or did not receive artist royalties.
- All music **MUST** be memorized; you must have **two songs** ready to perform throughout the competition -- **one song for preliminaries and a different song for semifinals**. You may choose one of the 2 songs previously performed for the finals. Original material and/or established material are acceptable for this competition.
- GMA does not provide any accompanists.
- Soloists and Groups may not use a live back-up group. You may use background trax (CD or cassette), any one instrumental accompaniment (piano or acoustic guitar), or both trax and one acoustic instrument. Acappella is also acceptable.
- GMA will provide small PA systems and acoustic pianos OR weighted keyboards for all competition rooms. In addition, GMA will provide a basic drum kit and amplifiers for the band competitors. **No other equipment will be provided**. Any groups who require additional equipment will need to bring their own.
- PLEASE NOTE: The preliminary and semifinal rounds of the competition are set-up "audition-style" with limited staging and simple sound equipment as described above. After the initial screening levels, the National Finals take place on the main stage with advanced state-of-the-art sound equipment and stage room.
- Practice rooms with pianos/weighted keyboards and portable stereos are available for rehearsal on a limited basis. Additional portable stereos are available for rent by the hour. Additional rehearsal space and equipment other than what is listed above will not be provided.
- A "Band" is a minimum of 3 people, including one vocalist and at least two instrumentalists. Bands must be registered as part of the band contest rate, which includes 2 full non-exchangable event registration passes. Additional registrations may be purchased at the additional group member rate. *A band member must be registered in order to compete in other categories or attend seminars, concerts, or special events.*
- Any artist (including individual group members) who has never had their recorded music **distributed on a national basis to the wholesale or retail trade** through the time of competition, ending August 2, 2010, IS eligible to compete. Note: Artists may be engaged in a recording agreement, or single-song compilation agreement, but the release date must be **AFTER** the time of this competition. Questions about such status must be submitted in written form to the GMA office two weeks before the competition entry deadline. The determination of the GMA will be final.
- You must plan to be at *Immerse* for the entire event in order to compete.
- All decisions made by the GMA and its selected judges will be final.

## **ARTIST PROCEDURES**

- Judges will be selected by the GMA Academy Council and the GMA Competition Coordinator.
- **All competitors** must attend a mandatory meeting on **Wednesday at 11:00 am, July 28, 2010 in the Massey Perf Arts Center auditorium**. You must bring a one-page typed BIO to be collected at this meeting.
- The preliminary screening for all Artist and Song categories will take place on Wednesday and Thursday. Semifinalists will be announced Thursday evening, and will perform again on Friday. Finalists will be announced following the Friday evening concert, and perform on Saturday evening. Sound checks for finalists are on Saturday.
- The **Artist 2010 National Finals** will take place on Saturday evening, as part of the evening concerts at *Immerse*. Three judges will provide LIVE feedback during the show. These judges and a selection of industry judges in attendance will make the final decisions.
- Awards for all ARTIST and SONG categories will be presented at the close of the Saturday evening concert. One winner plus a runner up will be chosen for each category.
- **Judging Criteria:** Throughout the competition, you will be judged on the following: Artistry, Overall Communication, Musicianship, Technique or Skills, Performance, Interpretation, Marketability.

- **Performance Time for Preliminaries:** Solos, Groups and Instrumental competitors will be allowed 2 ½ minutes; larger groups and bands will be allowed 7 minutes, with a little leeway given to bands for set-up. This includes set-up, performance, and tear-down. Two points will be deducted for every 15 seconds over. Songs may be phased down to keep within the time limit, however you must start at the beginning of your track. You are welcome to edit your track in advance to fit within the time limit. Remember – this is simply a preliminary screening round. The judges are looking for overall artistic skill to promote to the semi-final round. No introductory remarks are accepted – other than verifying your name and song title for the judges.
- **Performance Time for Semi-Finals:** Solos and Groups competitors will be allowed 5 minutes; larger groups and bands will be allowed 10 minutes, with a little leeway given to bands for set-up. This includes set-up, introductory remarks, performance, and tear-down. Two points will be deducted for every 15 seconds over. Introductory remarks are accepted in this round, but **MUST** fit within the allotted time limit.
- Look your best! Appearance should be appropriate for a Christian contest and does have a bearing on your final score.
- The judges will meet following each level of the competition to ensure proper placement of finalists at each level. **ALL** decisions made by the GMA's Competition Coordinator and its selected judges will be **FINAL**.