

IMMERSE
Song of 2010
National Competition Rules
Nashville, TN

The **Immerse Song of 2010 National Competition** is the Christian music industry's official talent competition for unsigned songwriters. At the *National Competition*, SONG competitors submit their entries for screening prior to the event and semifinals and finals are held on-site.

Immerse contestants will compete for the grand prize title **Song of 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.

COMPETITION DEADLINE

SONG Entry Deadline: June 30, 2010*

Registration, competition fees, and applicable materials must be received on or before these deadlines in order to be eligible.

QUALIFICATIONS

- All SONG contestants must register for the *Immerse* event. One official member of a competing group or co-songwriting team must register at the full rate. However, additional members or co-writers may register at the additional group member rate. (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 deadline 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.

SONG of 2010

SONG CATEGORIES & CLASSES

- **SONG CATEGORY** – Songs of all musical styles and genres with Christian lyrical content will be accepted. Songs will be judged based upon the excellence of songwriting skills within your musical style. Representatives from various genres will participate in the preliminary screening and judging.

The overall song categories above will be divided by class based upon level of songwriting experience. Awards will be given within each class as listed below:

- **AMATEUR CLASS** - Songs in this category qualify if all writers have never engaged in a **publishing** or single song agreement and/or will not engage in an agreement through the time of competition, ending August 2, 2010.
- **SEMI-PRO CLASS** - Songs in this category qualify if all writers have never had a song recorded on a **nationally distributed** project through the time of competition, ending August 2, 2010. Note: Writers in this class may in the past or currently be involved in a publishing agreement or single song agreement, but have never gotten a cut, through the time of this competition.

NOTE: Any song that is co-written by writers representing more than one of the three classes, must submit their song in the highest class level.

SONG RULES

- You may enter a maximum of 3 songs (across both categories), at \$39 per song entered. Regardless of the number of entries, no contestant will occupy more than two (2) semi-finalist slots per category and no more than one (1) finalist slot per category.
- **The following must be submitted and received on or before June 30, 2010:**
 - 1) Official Registration through GMA with all applicable fees
 - 2) Your song as well as typed lyrics submitted as an Electronic Press Kit (EPK)
- Songs should NOT exceed **five (5)** minutes in length.
- GMA and its selected judges reserve the right to move an entry to different category/class if it is better suited and will benefit the entrant. The competitor will be notified in advance if his/her entry has been switched to a more fitting category.
- You must plan to be at the *Immerse* event the entire event in order to compete.
- All winners must be present on the day of the awards ceremony to receive the awards.
- All decisions made by the GMA and its selected judges will be final.

SONG 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. Semi-finalists will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting.
- All songs will be pre-screened by professional songwriters and publishers. Songs from each category and class will be chosen in advance, and selected songs will be played and reviewed during the semifinal rounds held onsite at the event..
- Awards for all SONG classes will be presented during the Saturday evening concert. One grand prize winner plus a runner up will be chosen for each class of competition.
- **Judging Criteria:** Throughout the competition, song(s) will be judged on the following: Originality, Music/Melody, Musical Hook, Lyrical Hook, Marketability, and the Overall Concept. For the ABS Scripture Song Category, songs will also be judged on the use of scripture in song.
- PLEASE NOTE: If your song is chosen for the National Finals, the song must be performed LIVE with trax or simple accompaniment by you or another registered participant on your behalf. Simple accompaniment includes no more than two acoustic instruments (ie: piano/acoustic guitar). Therefore, please bring background trax or music for your entered songs. If you are not prepared to have your song performed LIVE at the finals, the performance slot will be offered to the next highest scoring contestant.
- 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.

DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Publishing Agreement – Writer engaged with a company whose business includes exploiting song catalog(s) in the commercial marketplace on a national basis (whether in printed, recorded or other products, in audio/visual media such as film, for public performance or otherwise).

National Distribution – Song must be tracked by Soundscan. For more information go to www.ChristianSoundScan.com.

Featured Artist – Identified as soloist, featured vocalist or lead singer of a band or group with national distribution.