



BROTHERS KEEPERS Songwriter Showdown Contest Rules



The BROTHERSKEEPERS Songwriter Showdown contest opens for entry on October 10th, 2024, and will close on October 26th, 2024. Entries will not be accepted after midnight (CST) October 26th, 2024.

No fee to enter the contest.

Each entrant must submit application with a song list of at least 5 songs, with at least two as originals. This is important because only songs submitted with the entry can be performed in the contest. A song is defined as a melody with lyrics. Songs may be no longer than five minutes in length. Also, please include a link to a live performance, preferably of one or more of the songs submitted into the contest.

By October 31st, 2024, at 7pm, the 6 semifinalists will be notified of being selected for the Songwriter Showdown via phone and/or email.

The 6 semifinalists must commit to being present for the entire night's events from 7pm-12am on Thursday, November 7th. Please register and load in by 7pm. Competition starts at 9pm.

The semifinals/finals will be held at Madam Pearl's Dancehall & Saloon located in the historic Fort Worth Stockyards at 302 W. Exchange Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76164. The 6 songwriters selected for the semifinals will perform 3 songs, one an original, from the songs submitted before a panel of judges and the audience. At the conclusion of the competition 2 songwriters will be selected by the judges to advance to the Finals at 11:30pm. The finalists will perform one different song from those submitted, for the Finals. Only songs submitted as part of the songwriter's original entry can be performed in the contest.

The winner of the competition will be opening for ROWDY DECKER on the outdoor main stage on Exchange Ave on November 9th, at 7pm.

Each entrant retains all rights to his or her submitted songs.

Contestants may have ONE accompanist if they don't play their own instrument (any & all instruments are, however, allowed).

Co-written and cover songs may be submitted; however, only one of the writers may submit an application and perform the song on day of contest.

All entries will be considered. Submissions which have lyrics deemed inappropriate for family listening by the event organizers shall be disqualified. The Songwriter Serenade is a family-friendly event.

Participants in the BROTHERSKEEPERS Songwriter Showdown agree that Madam Pearl's and BROTHERSKEEPERS will have the right to publicize the names and likenesses of the participants.

Any contest entrant under the age of 18 years must provide express written consent to enter, from a parent or legal guardian.

Judging Criteria

Each judge will have a judging binder that includes the list of each song submitted by the contestants. The songwriter must identify the song selected for performance before starting the song. The judges will have a scoring sheet for each song being performed and will judge the song and performance in four specific areas:

- Lyrics (imagery, story, creativity, originality on originals)
- Melody (structure, phrasing, rhythm)
- Performing ability (vocal, musicianship)
- Stage presence / audience rapport

Each judge will assign a score between 0 – 10 for each of the three judging categories. A total score is then derived for each performance. At the end of the Semi-Final and Final rounds the scores for each performance will be totaled and sorted by songwriter from high to low to determine the order of finish.