



TAMWORTH SONGWRITERS' ASSOCIATION INC

FAQ SONG COMPETITIONS.

The TSA conducts two Songwriting Competitions. The National Country Songwriting Contest open to Amateur and Professional songwriters with unpublished and unreleased material which closes end September and the Songwriters Salute for released material closing 15th October each year with the winners announced at the Awards Night held in Tamworth on or about the middle of January the following year of the competition.

There are three main competitions to which songwriters can enter their songs .

1) TSA National Country Songwriting Contest

(For songs not yet commercially released prior to close of entry)

See the entry form available on the website; www.tsaonline.com.au for the rules conditions and entry fee . Below are some frequently asked questions regarding this competition.

(Q) What is the definition of commercially released for this contest?

(A) For the purposes of this contest only, commercially released is taken to define songs that have been **offered** for commercial use whether for sale, given away as gifts or for promotional purposes. Self funded albums are still considered as commercially released.

(Q) If my co-writer is a Professional Writer and I am an Amateur writer having not won a songwriting competition, can our songs be entered in the Amateur Section of this competition?

(A) NO, if any of the writers are professional (ie for the purposes of this competition; won a songwriting contest) then the song must be entered into the professional Section of the Contest.

(Q) Could you please clarify the definition of an Amateur Writer?

(A) For this contest an Amateur writer is defined as a writer who has never won a major songwriting contest OR has not had 500 or more recordings of any one title offered for commercial release/use.

(Q) How are Amateur and Professional sections divided?

(A) Each section is divided made up of Contemporary and Traditional entries.
Note there is also a Junior section with no distinction between Traditional & Contemporary, note there is also no such distinction for Lyrics only.

(Q) What is the definition of a Traditional Song?

(A) For this contest a Traditional Song is a song that in the opinion of the Judges is one that is generally accepted as traditional by its style, content, instrument, arrangement, vocal style.
Songs such as bush ballads, heritage and Australian songs about traditional or historical events, played in a “pick/strum style” and played on what are generally considered to be traditional instruments (guitar, banjo, violin/fiddle, accordion, mandolin) will qualify as traditional.

(Q) What is the definition of a Contemporary Song?

(A) For this contest a Contemporary Song is a song whose lyric and melody is considered by the Judges to be of contemporary in style and content, reflecting modern themes, arrangements, instruments vocal style and delivery. A song such as a contemporary interpretation of a traditional song with unusual instrumentation or more electric approach will be considered Contemporary.

(Q) Who is responsible for deciding what type of song I have written?

(A) You must nominate the category of your entry when you complete the form.
Once entered, the song will be judged accordingly and to the Q&A guidelines above.
No song can be re-submitted once the entry is lodged and accepted.
You cannot enter the same song in both categories.

(Q) Can I pay TSA membership fees and become a member of the TSA when entering the contest and then pay the members discounted entry fee per song.

(A) Yes

2) TSA Songwriters Salute Awards

(Q) What is the definition of commercially released for this contest.?

(A) For the purposes of this contest only, commercially released is taken to define songs that have been **offered** for commercial use whether for sale, given away as gifts or for promotional purposes. Self funded albums are still considered as commercially released.

(Q) If I have songs on my CD with different co-writers ,can I enter more than one song in a category?

(A) Yes . Nominations are restricted to one song per writer per category but where co-writers are involved each different combination counts as a different entry however the same song cannot be entered into more than one category.

(Q) Do both lyrics and music have to be original?

(A) Yes, both lyrics and music have to be original and release for the first time between the dates on the entry form.

(Q) Can I supply dubs in lieu of commercially released product?

(A) No , five actual CD's of the release must be supplied and these will not be returned as the CDs could well find their way to be played on radio.

(Q) Is there an entry fee for the Songwriters Salute Award?

(A) No, there is no separate entry fee other than the 5 CD's that you supply with your entry.

3) TSA/ Capital News new Songwriter Award

(Q) What is the difference between the Songwriters' Salute Award and the new Songwriter Award?

(A) The New Songwriter Award is for new songwriters only refer to the ineligibility conditions on the entry form for this award.

3) TSA / Capital news new Songwriter Award (Cont.)

(Q) What is the definition of a New Songwriter?

(A) For this contest a new Songwriter is one who has NOT had a song commercially released up to five (5) years prior to the date of the awards concert and who has NOT won any award or prize for songwriting for commercially released product.

(Q) Where co-writers are involved must all co-writers meet the criteria to be eligible to enter?

(A) YES

(Q) Can I Supply dubs instead of commercially released product?

(A) No Five (5) actual CD's must be submitted , these will not be returned.

(Q) If I am entering both the Salute Awards and new Songwriter Awards do I need to submit a total of 10 CD's?

(A) Yes , there will be different judges for these awards.

(Q) Could you clarify a Gospel Song.

(A) A Gospel Song (for the purposes of this Competition) is one delivered in a Country flavor that contains references to The Bible, it's teachings and /or the Characters therein.

