



NATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION - HOW TO ENTER -

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

Round 1 – All entry videos are critiqued and scored by our industry judges to decide who progresses to the Round 2 live stream.

Round 2 – The live stream will use your pre-recorded performance video from Round 1, and judges will announce who will proceed to the State Final.

State Final – Contestants are to pre-record a new video performance to be critiqued by two different industry judges. Judges will announce who will proceed to the National Final.

National Final – Using your pre-recorded performance video from the State Final, the executive producer of Take the Mic Australia and our sponsor James North Productions will select a national winner from each division.

Quick Notes:

- Contestants are judged and scored against contestants within the State they live in. Only in the National Final are all competitors scored against each other.

- Contestants will never have to perform live. All videos are pre-recorded, but will be edited and streamed as a live video.

- Round 2, State Final, and The National Final are all streamed online

HOW TO ENTER

1. Film your solo performance following our strict rules and guidelines, and upload it to a file sharing account or YouTube/Vimeo. Make sure the video privacy is set to 'unlisted', or that anyone with the direct URL link can view it. The video cannot be public.
2. Complete the online application form where you can select your state, division, and link us to your performance video. www.takethemic.com.au/apply
3. Wait to hear back from Take the Mic after May 31, once submissions have closed.

COMPETITION DATES

Sunday, **May 31**: Round 1 / Applications Close

June TBC: Round 2 Live Stream

June TBC: State Final Live Stream

July TBC: National Final Live Stream

HOW TO FILM YOUR PERFORMANCE (STRICT RULES)

1. Whilst you do not need a professional camera, make sure it films in at least 1080p. Phone recordings are generally okay if you're confident in uploading in its highest quality.
2. Film in landscape
3. Frame the camera from your waist up (or full body) and center yourself.
4. Do not film handheld. Use a tripod, or balance your camera on a steady surface.
5. Begin your video with a very short introduction including: Your Full Name, Your State, and Your Song Title/Artist. Make sure you leave 5seconds of silence before you speak, and after your performance.
6. Perform as if there is a live audience. This video a performance, not an audition.
7. The song can be performed with a backing track or live instrument. Microphones are strictly prohibited and instruments must be unplugged and performed acoustically. Keyboards may use their inbuilt speaker. Live instruments must be performed by the singer only. Suggested site – www.karaoke-version.com
8. Make sure the music is coming from an external source like a Bluetooth speaker. Take time in balancing the audio so we can clearly hear your voice.
9. The performance must be recorded in one take, one camera, without editing. No visual filters, and strictly no audio effects. You can film your performance as many times as you like to get it right, but the final version must be from one take only.
10. Lighting is key. Make sure your performance is well lit with either natural light, or your own special set-up.
11. Upload your video to a file sharing website like Dropbox/Google Drive, or a video host like Youtube/Vimeo. Make sure the video is not public, but instead set to "unlisted", or is able to be downloaded directly by someone with the URL. Make sure to test this link by sending it to a friend/family member to make sure it works before submitting your application.
12. Your uploaded video should be clearly titled Your Full Name, Your State, Your Division. (eg John Smith – Melbourne - Teen Division)

Any video that does not follow all of these instructions will not qualify for the competition, although two judges will still critique the performance. We do not take any responsibility for any videos that we can't access due to an incorrect URL or privacy settings.

PRIZES

- Round 2 winners will continue to the State Final and have their additional performance critiqued by another two industry professional judges.
- National winners from each division will win an incredible experience with James North Productions including the creation and development of your very own original song, professionally recorded and mastered.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Story Telling: Connection and meaningful delivery of the lyrics

Performance: Non verbal communication and stage presence

Vocal Quality: Application of vocal range, tone, and dynamics

TIP: Contestants generally get higher performance scores when performing an uptempo song!

SCORING EXAMPLE

Story Telling: 8/10

Performance: 8/10

Vocal Quality: 8/10

TOTAL = 24/30

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Set Design & Presentation: for best use of location, lighting, and set dressing.

Filming Quality: for best framing, video quality, and audio balance.

Presentation: for best outfit and/or costume.

Entertainment: most engaging performer which could include dance, use of space, humor, props, etc.

AUDIENCE VOTING

The audience votes can fast track one performer per division to the next round. By the time the performances are streamed, the judges will have already calculated the scores and will be ready to announce the winners. So the performer with the most votes (that did not already qualify) will get a second chance and proceed to the next round.

AGE DIVISIONS

Junior Division 6-12

Teen Division 13-17

Open Division 18+

FEQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

WHERE DO I APPLY?

www.takethemic.com.au/apply

CAN I PERFORM IN A GROUP?

No. This is a solo competition.

WHEN DO I SUBMIT MY PERFORMANCE VIDEO?

You must upload your video and submit the online application form by Sunday, May 31. However it is highly encouraged to do this earlier in case of any technical issues.

CAN I HAVE SOMEONE ACCOMPANY ME?

No, only performers are permitted to play a live instrument. Otherwise we recommend using a backing track.

WHAT IS THE AGE LIMIT?

Juniors are 6 – 12, Teens are 13 – 17, and Open Division is 18+

WHAT IS THE SKILL LEVEL?

Take the Mic is open for all skill levels and vocal styles. You may not enter the competition if you've been a finalist on any televised competition event, or if you're a full time working performer.

CAN THE MUSIC HAVE BACKING VOCALS?

The backing track is permitted to have backing vocals if it does not distract from the soloist.

I'VE WON A PREVIOUS TAKE THE MIC COMPETITION. CAN I ENTER?

Yes. For the first time, previous winners can re-enter the competition, as it will be judged nationally.

I'M A SINGING TEACHER. CAN I ENTER?

We would find it unfair if singing teachers entered the competition. This event is for rising talent, not working industry professionals.

DO I HAVE BE AUSTRALIAN?

You may apply as long as you live in Australia for more than 12 months, and hold more than a working holiday visa.

WHAT SHOULD I SING?

You may sing any style that you are most comfortable with. It must not contain explicit language, and should be appropriate for the age range of your division. From contemporary to musical theatre, the choice is yours. Although we do love an uptempo song!

IS THERE A TIME LIMIT?

Yes, your song should be below 5minutes.

CAN I SING AN ORIGINAL?

Yes, we love to hear original work.

CAN I SING ACAPELLA?

No, you must use a backing track or live instrument.

CAN I GET A REFUND?

No. Once you have submitted your application it will be sent off to the judges to critique. We do not take any responsibility for videos that are not accessible due to privacy restrictions, or incorrect URL links.

DO I GET TO SEE THE SCORES?

Whilst you will not get to see your score, you will get your critiques from our industry judges.

HOW CAN WE ACCESS THE LIVE STREAM?

The stream is free to watch. The time of your performance and the link will be sent to you a few days prior to the stream. This will be open to the public to watch, and likely streamed on either Facebook or YouTube.

CAN I POST MY VIDEO ONLINE BEFORE THE LIVE STREAM?

No, you will be disqualified if we find this. You're welcome to post your video on your social media accounts at least 7 after the live stream. Otherwise we recommend you share the online link, and tag the time at which you perform.

CAN I UPLOAD AN OLD VIDEO?

No. The video must be recorded specifically for this competition, following the instructions in the "How To Film Your Performance" section of the brief.

WHEN WILL THE JUDGES SEE MY VIDEO?

The judges will critique the performance in their own time in the lead up to the live stream shows. They will announce the winners at the end of each live stream. So make sure to tune in for the results!

HOW DOES THE LIVE STREAM WORK, CONSIDERING THE PERFORMANCES ARE PRE-RECORDED?

We will collate the performances and edit a feature length show including inserts from our host and judges. Contestants will never have to perform live. Whilst the whole process will be pre-recorded, the stream will be live with viewers able to watch the performance unfold at the same time. We encourage you to promote your time slot, as viewers can only vote for their favourite performers during the show.

CAN I HAVE FAMILY/FRIENDS IN THE VIDEO AS AN AUDIENCE?

You cannot have a live audience when filming, however you're allowed one person to operate the camera if required.

DO I HAVE EVER HAVE TO PERFORM LIVE?

No. All performances are pre-recorded

HOW MUCH IS THE COMPETITION?

The show fee is \$45, which includes competition entry and critique from two professional industry judges throughout your competition journey. (Not including the the National Final) This fee must be paid to submit your application

The live stream events are **FREE** for the audience. Donations are welcome which support future live events and theatre during this difficult time for the industry.

ONE OF MY QUESTIONS ISN'T ANSWERED HERE. WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Please email competition@takethemic.com.au

We do not accept video submissions by email. You must complete the online form.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Contestants that are under 18 years old must have permission by their parents to enter the competition and have their performance distributed online.
- Contestants must not be full time performers or considered industry professionals
- Contestants have not appeared as a finalist on any commercial televised competitions.
- Contestants must follow each and every instruction as specified in the “how to film your performance” section of the brief.
- A non-refundable show fee of \$45 is due before submitting your application.
- Judges have final decision, and audience votes will not disrupt the fair nature of the scoring.
- Take the Mic reserves the right add/reduce the number of rounds/contestants at any time
- Take the Mic reserves the right to change the live stream dates and times for any reason
- All prizes are subject to availability, expire within 3 months, and may change at any time.
- Contestants must be living in Australia, for more than 12 months, and have more than a working Visa.

MEDIA RELEASE & CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

- **1.1 MEDIA RELEASE:** I give full permission to Take the Mic Australia to use my name and image in any aspect in relation to the singing competition event. I understand that any process of this production may be filmed and photographed, and I give full permission to Take the Mic to use these recordings in all media including print, broadcast, radio, and social media, at any stage during or after the production has concluded.
- **1.2 CONFIDENTIALITY:** I understand and agree to maintain this confidentiality agreement for anything in relation to the company of Take the Mic and its competition event. I agree to keep all aspects of the production confidential, including conversations in person or online, distribute any contracts or documents, music materials, or intellectual property.

