

# **Illinois Country Music Association, Inc.**

## **Songwriting Contests**

There are two separate and distinct songwriting competitions available to members of the Illinois Country Music Association, Inc. They are totally independent of each other.

### **ICMA Recognition Program**

The Songwriting Contest is a part of the Illinois Country Music Association, Inc., recognition program. Winners are announced at the annual program held in autumn each year. Exact dates will be communicated to members via the ICMA Newsletter.

#### **Eligibility**

All members in good standing of the Illinois Country Music Association, Inc., are eligible for the Songwriting Contest.

#### **Judges**

The State Board of the Illinois Country Music Association, Inc picks the judges annually.

#### **Criteria**

- Songs are judged on the following:
- Originality
- Marketability in today's country music industry.
- Lyrics (hooks, clever lines, play on words, etc.)
- Melody (nice tune, etc.)
- Songs are not judged on the quality of the tape/recording submitted.
- Special favor is not given to any individual songwriter.

#### **Submitting Songs**

- Each writer may submit two songs in any country category; country, gospel, bluegrass, western; any type of music as long as it is country.
- Each song must have a Form PA Certificate of Registration for a Work of the Performing Arts issued by the United States Copyright Office, or such Certificate must be applied for at the time the song is submitted. (For current information on fees, write the Copyright Office at 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C., or check the Copyright Office website at [www.loc.gov/copyright](http://www.loc.gov/copyright), or call (202) 707-3300.)
- A clear CD recording of each song must be submitted. It is also desirable to include the lyrics and chords, or written music, along with the recording. (Quality of recordings can vary, and it is helpful if the judges have the written lyrics to refer to.)

**Deadline**

The deadline for submitting songs will be announced annually in the ICMA Newsletter.

**Performance**

Each person submitting a song or songs for the contest must have their songs ready for performance at the recognition show. The songs may be performed by the writer or his/her designee.

## **NACMAI Music Week Competition (North America Country Music Associations, International)**

The NACMAI Music Week Competition is held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, early in March of each year.

**Eligibility**

All members in good standing of the Illinois Country Music Association, Inc., are eligible for the Songwriting Contest. It is not necessary to enter or place in the ICMA "People's Choice" Awards Show in order to be eligible for the NACMAI competition.

**Judges**

Judges for this competition are chosen by NACMAI officials. The ICMA does not have any input as to the selection or conduct of the judging process.

**Criteria**

- Songs are judged on the following:
- Marketability in today's country music industry.
- Lyrics (hooks, clever lines, play on words, etc.)
- Melody (nice tune, etc.)
- Songs are not judged on the quality of the tape/recording submitted.

**Submitting Songs**

- Each writer may submit two songs in any country category; country, gospel, bluegrass, western; any type of music as long as it is country.
- Each song must have a Form PA Certificate of Registration for a Work of the Performing Arts issued by the United States Copyright Office, or such Certificate must be applied for at the time the song is submitted. (For current information on fees, write the Copyright Office at 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C., or check the Copyright Office web site at [www.loc.gov/copyright](http://www.loc.gov/copyright), or call (202) 707-3300.)
- A clear CD recording of each song must be submitted. It is also desirable to include the lyrics and chords, or written music, along with the recording. (Quality of recordings can vary, and it is helpful if the judges have the written lyrics to refer to.)
- Do not include jewel cases or any other containers for CD's. Wrap the CD in the lyric sheet

and secure with a rubber band.. Your name will be taken off of the media presented before it is judged.

**Deadline**

The deadline for submitting songs is November 1 of the year prior to the March Music Week. All material must be submitted to the state organization to be checked and forwarded to NACMAI.

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*The Illinois Country Music Association, Inc.,  
is a not-for-profit organization.*

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