



2020 Bitter Jester Original Song Competition Rules & Agreement

Submission Deadline = Sunday, May 31, 2020 @ 11:59pm CST



The Bitter Jester Music Festival ("BJMF") is produced by the Bitter Jester Foundation for the Arts ("BJFA"), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Illinois.

AGE REQUIREMENT:

- Half the members of a submitting band must be 21 or younger
- Solo artists must be 21 or younger

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Online entry form available at BitterJesterMusic.org
- Songs must be 100% original content (music/lyrics)
- Audio only, no video - entry must be an MP3 or WAV file (no links, please)
- Bands & solo performers are welcome to apply
 - *Only one (1) song per band / solo performer*
 - *Individual band members from bands that have already submitted may also submit one (1) solo song each; in such an event, the solo performer(s) will be placed into competition during the same week as their band to ensure fairness*
- If you are in more than one band you may submit one (1) song for each band
- If you have lyrics, you will be asked to also submit the typed text along with the song entry (disregard if instrumental)
- Entries should be "family friendly"
- A non-refundable \$25 entry fee must accompany each entry
 - *If you previously applied to the 2020 BJMF, your previous application fee will be applied to this competition and any difference will be refunded to you*
- **OPTIONAL:** A short paragraph about the song is also requested (not required) - this can be info about the inspiration behind the song or could be hurdles or challenges you faced while writing or recording - tell your story! (judges will see this)
- No restrictions on song length, musical genre, or musical style
- No restrictions on when the song was recorded
 - *Recording quality will not specifically be judged*
- No restrictions on artist location
 - *Competition is open to musicians living anywhere*
 - *Artists must adhere to all applicable social distancing / stay-at-home guidelines*

PRIZE MONEY - COURTESY OF FIRST BANK OF HIGHLAND PARK

- Two (2) winning songs (picked by judges) will each receive a \$250 cash prize
- One (1) Fan Favorite song (picked by social media) will receive a \$100 cash prize
 - *In the Final Round, the Fan Favorite can also be a song picked by judges*

JUDGING:

- All judges are selected at the discretion of BJFA & BJMF staff
- Preliminary Round judging panels will be different each week
- Final Round judging panel will be all of the Preliminary Round panels combined
- All judging will be "ranked choice" (i.e. judges will select 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choices)
- Judges feedback will be provided to entrants after the competition has concluded

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2020 COMPETITION SCHEDULE:

(schedule & number of rounds subject to change pending number of entries)

May 31 = Deadline for entries (11:59pm CST)

June 1 - June 5 = Preliminary Round One (Finalists 1 & 2 announced on June 6)

June 8 - June 12 = Preliminary Round Two (Finalists 3 & 4 announced on June 13)

June 15 - June 19 = Preliminary Round Three (Finalists 5 & 6 announced on June 20)

June 22 - June 26 = Preliminary Round Four (Finalists 7 & 8 announced on June 27)

June 29 - July 3 = Final Round (8 Finalists from the previous weeks compete)

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON THE 4th OF JULY!

COMPETITION FORMAT:

- The entire competition will take place over five (5) weeks in June & July
- Song placement (i.e. the specific competition in each Preliminary Round) will be determined by a [random number generator](#) - **SPOTS ARE LIMITED so enter soon**
- Entrants will not know which week their song will compete until the Monday it's posted
- Two (2) songs from each of the Preliminary weeks will advance to the Final Round
 - One (1) song = picked by a judging panel (different judges each week)
 - One (1) song = picked by audience votes (determined by the total number of likes on official BJMF Instagram + Facebook posts - NOTE: likes on shared posts or artist-generated posts or other posts will not count)
 - During Preliminary Rounds, if the Fan Favorite is also the judges' pick, the 2nd Fan Favorite song will advance (i.e. two (2) songs will advance each week)
- Should the # of rounds increase, the Preliminary Round Fan Favorite pick *may* be eliminated
- Eight (8) Finalist songs will compete in a Final Round of judging
- The Final Round will have new posts on BJMF social media - Final Round Fan Favorite votes will only count on the new (Final Round) posts - i.e. "likes" on previous Preliminary Round posts will not count toward the Final Round Fan Favorite score
- Two (2) Winners + a Fan Favorite will be announced on the 4th of July, 2020
 - Two (2) Winning Songs will be selected based on ranked choice selections made by a judging panel comprised of professional musicians and industry experts
 - One (1) Fan Favorite Song will be picked by audience votes (determined by the total number of likes on official BJMF Instagram + Facebook posts - NOTE: likes on shared or artist-generated posts or Preliminary Round posts will not count)

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BY SUBMITTING MUSIC TO THIS COMPETITION, ENTRANTS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:

- The submitted song (music & lyrics) is an original work that the Entrant has ownership of and/or permission to share and permission/authority to enter into this competition.
- They have the authority to and agree to give BJFA & BJMF the non-exclusive rights to share, broadcast, publicize, or otherwise showcase the song (in whole or in part) and to use the song in any and all future BJFA-related publications and promotions (provided proper credit is given); BJFA & BJMF shall not profit off any submissions
- They understand the Fan Favorite vote totals shall be determined solely by counting “likes” on the official BJMF song posts on Instagram ([@bitterjester_musicfestival](https://www.instagram.com/bitterjester_musicfestival)) and Facebook ([@bitterjesterbattle](https://www.facebook.com/bitterjesterbattle)) tallied together. The official count will take place at 11:59 pm CST the night before Finalists / Winners are announced.
 - *Likes given after the 11:59 pm deadline will not count toward the total*
 - *Likes on shared posts or on artist-generated posts or on any other types of posts or shares (on social media or elsewhere) will not count toward the total*
 - *Likes on comments within posts will not count toward the total*
 - *Likes from fake or suspicious accounts will not count toward the total*
 - *Likes from Preliminary Rounds will not count toward Final Round totals*
 - *BJMF & BJFA may utilize other social media platforms (Twitter, YouTube, etc) to showcase songs and the contest as a whole, but likes on posts within platforms outside of Instagram and Facebook will not count toward the total*
- The total entry fee is \$27 (which includes a \$2 processing fee) and is non-refundable
- Competition structure (including but not limited to the rules, requirements, regulations, format, schedules, judges, prizes, promotions, etc.) are all at the discretion of BJFA and are subject to change at any time without notice
 - *BJMF will do its best to notify Entrants of any major updates or changes*
- BJFA reserves the right to disqualify entries deemed too explicit or to notate “explicit”
 - *In the event of a disqualification, all entry fees will be refunded*
- This Original Song Competition may be cancelled at any time for any reason
 - *In the unlikely event of a cancellation, all entry fees will be refunded*



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