

# SONG OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY **HEALTHWAY**

## TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

© WAM 2026

### 1. GENERAL

#### a. Organisation

The West Australian Music Industry Association Limited (WAM) organises and produces WAM Song of the Year, an annual, original songwriting competition that promotes the talents of songwriters who reside in Western Australia. WAM Song of the Year aims to promote and support West Australian songwriters across many genres and facilitate career opportunities.

#### b. Independence

Judging of submissions, and selection of category nominees and winners, is undertaken by selected panels of judges that are independent of WAM. WAM will publish a list of judges at the conclusion of the awards.

#### c. Acceptance

Participation in WAM Song of the Year implies complete acceptance of the present Terms and Conditions, the renunciation of any recourse concerning the conditions of organisation and the running of the event, its results, and the attribution of prizes as well as the decision of the jury, which will be final and without appeal.

#### d. Entries – Submissions

- i. WAM Song of the Year is exclusively open to residents of Western Australia (WA);
- ii. All songwriters involved in writing the songs entered into WAM Song of the Year must have been based in WA for the majority of the previous 12 months. Songs which include co-writers outside of WA who have not lived in WA for the majority of the past 12 months will not be eligible to receive nominations or win categories. Entrants who aren't current residents of WA, or Australian citizens can enter songs or be co-writers for Song of the Year entries provided they have spent the majority of the past 12 months in WA.
- iii. Vocal or instrumental parts can be recorded by performers outside of WA, however the melody and lyrics must be composed entirely by the WA songwriter/s;
- iv. The song must be the original work of the songwriter/s;
- v. The songwriters/entrants must have permission from all rights holders associated with their song entry/s including samples (including but not limited to; songwriters, labels, publishers, etc.) and by entering the competition provide permission for WAM to use and/or reproduce these songs in any way WAM sees fit to implement and/or promote the WAM Song of the Year competition
- vi. It is the responsibility of the entrant to ensure compliance with any existing co-writing or publishing agreements. Any prizes awarded in relation to a song featuring multiple songwriters or rights holders



WAM is supported by the State  
Government through the Department of  
Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport

must be shared and distributed in accordance with existing agreements between those parties. WAM accepts no responsibility for the distribution of prizes between collaborators.

- vii. All copyrights remain the property of the songwriters/copyright owners. No contestant may infringe upon existing copyrights and in submitting their song the contestant agrees that WAM is not held responsible for any such infringement which may occur, and will indemnify WAM against any legal action which may arise as a result of such breaches of copyright;
- viii. A song entry that was nominated in the previous year's Song of the Year, cannot be nominated or be a prize-winner of the current year's competition;
- ix. All fees associated with WAM Song of the Year are non-refundable and non-transferable;
- x. All entrants agree to have their work/s made available to third parties in order to carry out the project and satisfy program sponsors;
- xi. All entries must be songs that have been written or released between March 2025 and February 2026.
- xii. WAM reserves the right to exclude entries based on inappropriate or discriminatory content, such as lyrics or content such as violence, violent imagery race, sexuality or gender.
- xiii. WAM's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into. WAM accepts no responsibility for lost, late, stolen, damaged, disqualified or misdirected entries. WAM reserves the right to authenticate entries and to disqualify any entrant.

#### e. Categories

There are 12 genre categories: Blues/Roots, Country, Electronic, Experimental, Folk, Global, Hip Hop/New R&B, Jazz, Heavy/Metal, Punk/Hardcore, Pop, and Rock

In addition, if you are eligible you may enter the following categories:

- i. Outstanding Indigenous – open to artists who identify as Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander songwriters. For acts with two or more members, at least 50% of the songwriters for each song entered must identify as Indigenous to be eligible for this category.
- ii. Outstanding Regional – is open to all WA songwriters outside of the Perth metro area. For acts with two or more members, at least 50% of the songwriters for each song entered must have been based in regional WA for the majority of the previous year to be eligible for this category.
- iii. Under 18s – all songwriters *must* be the under the age of 18 to enter.
- iv. *Healthway Feel It Write It*: invites songs relevant to Healthway's "Feel It, Write It" messaging. The selection criteria for the category is based on how well the song's lyrics align with the positive social emotional wellbeing factors and its key messages:
- v. *A Song for Sophie* Award – has separate terms and conditions of entry, available on the WAM website.

#### f. Judging

The judging panels are made up of music industry professionals from across Australia and overseas. Categories that receive a high volume of entries may be assessed by an assessment panel before progressing to the industry judging panels.

- i. Up to five nominees and a winner from this group will be chosen in each category;
- ii. The Grand Prize, Runner-Up and Second Runner-Up winners are selected from the finalists of each category by an independent judging panel. The Grand Prize winner is the overall highest rated song from the Grand Prize judging round, with the Runner-Up the second highest and Second Runner-Up the third highest;

- iii. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the outcomes of judging decisions.

## 2. NOMINEES & PRIZE-WINNERS

### a. Category Nominees & Winners

- i. Reasonable efforts will be taken to inform entrants that they have been nominated;
- ii. Cash prizes will be paid following the WAM Song of the Year Awards event.
- iii. All category nominees agree to have their winning song included on a WAM Song of the Year playlist, should one be produced and have the right and authority to provide permission for this use. Inclusion will be subject to audio quality and suitability and is solely at WAM's discretion;
- 3. All category nominees agree to have their nominated entry included on various websites, and have the authority to permit this. WAM Song of the Year creates huge promotional opportunities for finalists and winners. WAM will notify you of these opportunities as they arise;
- 4. All category nominees agree to (and are authorised to) grant WAM the non-exclusive right, free of charge, to make entered songs available for streaming, together with nominee's name and approved images, by members of the public on a non-commercial basis for the purpose of promoting WAM Song of the Year;
- 5. Entrant's song/s may be made available for download for promotional purposes to media outlets only. To opt out of this term, entrants must notify WAM in writing. Entrants who do not opt out will have their work available for private downloads for media promotion purposes only (including but not limited to radio airplay, song reviews etc);
- i. All category nominees will be asked to provide a photo and bio for promotional use and will be considered for media opportunities relating to the event.
- 6. WAM Song of the Year is a songwriting competition. Therefore, the songwriters may be credited as the finalists/winners. In the case of all members of a band being the songwriters, the band name will be credited as the finalists/winners. Please list all songwriters accurately and in full and make sure the "Act Name" and "Song Title/s" are correct in your application form;
- i. Prize-winners will be announced at the Awards Night;
- 7. Artists who perform at the WAM Song of the Year Awards will be selected from the competition's nominees pool.
- 8. The State Library of Western Australia are seeking to document all nominees for the Song of the Year competition in their archive. To opt out of this arrangement, you must notify WAM in writing. If you do not opt out or notify WAM by the end of the competition, your nominated work/s may be entered into The State Library of Western Australia's archive.
- 9. All prizes winners must invoice WAM within 6 months of the event date, unless otherwise arranged with both WAM.

## 10. SUBMISSIONS

### 11. How To Enter

Entries are open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 and close at midnight on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 (unless extended). Only online entries will be accepted via the WAM Song of the Year Platform.

12. Lyrics must be submitted for each song, but if the track is instrumental, please list "instrumental" in the Lyrics section of the form.

- i. Songs sung in languages other than English must have an English translation where possible.
- ii. All songwriters and collaborators must be listed on the online entry form.

13. WAM cannot provide advice regarding which categories entrants should enter their songs.



WAM is supported by the State Government through the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport

- i. Applicants may enter a maximum of THREE songs in the competition.

#### 14. Pricing

All prices are in AUD and include GST. The same songs can be entered multiple times in different categories but attract a fee for each additional category they are added to.

15. WAM Members: WAM members receive a discount for entries. To access their discounted prices, WAM Members will receive a private link or may access the form through the Member hub.

16. Non-WAM Members: \$30\* per song for the genre categories. You can join WAM via the WAM website to receive your membership number prior to submitting in order to receive the member discount.

- i. Under 18's Entries: \$15\* per song.
- 17. *Healthway Feel it Write It*: \$10\* per song.
- i. Outstanding Indigenous: Free Entry, limited to one entry per applicant
- ii. Outstanding Regional: \$15\* per song
- iii. Song for Sophie Award: Free Entry, limited to one entry per applicant