

IWMA Performance Application Guidelines

SHOWCASE (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

The purpose of the Showcase is to give the public the opportunity to see performances that best showcase the talent in IWMA. The committee will choose from the applicants the performers they feel represent the best that IWMA has to offer.

This year, the time slots will be 20 minutes which will be strictly enforced. It is up to the performers to keep within their time slot. A five-minute break between acts will allow the next act to get set up quickly, do an on-the-spot sound check, and start at their starting time. No act will be allowed to go beyond their performance slot due to being late, unprepared, etc. The stage host will do everything possible to keep the showcases on time.

You may ask others to join you in your showcase as back up or "special guests." All acts must be self-contained, NO pre-recorded tracks may be used, and we strongly encourage you to plan a simple set up that allows you to use direct input, or an instrument mic, as opposed to using your own amps. If you do choose to showcase with a more complicated set up, it is up to you to be onstage and ready in the time between the act preceding you and your start time. If you go over that time, it comes out of your showcase slot, NOT the five minutes before the next act's time slot.

CAMPFIRE STAGE (Friday)

This is an opportunity for traditional and contemporary artists to perform 3-4 songs and/or poems (of approx. 5 mins each) in a relaxed, "in the round" atmosphere, that aims to recreate the down to earth, from the heart, delivery of working cowboys and cowgirls around the campfire.

FRIDAY NIGHT OPRY

This show is done in an Opry format with one song/poem for each performer or group. It is **fast-paced** with a minimum of introductory remarks. You may ask others to join you for your performance, but IWMA must be notified beforehand to ensure proper stage setup. One omni-directional mic is used for the Opry. All acts must be self-contained and NO pre-recorded tracks may be used.

VETERANS APPRECIATION BREAKFAST (Saturday)

This program is a salute to all veterans and each performer is asked to perform one patriotic-themed song or poem. You will be asked to submit the name of your song or poem beforehand to avoid duplication. All acts must be self-contained and NO pre-recorded tracks may be used. You do not need to be a Veteran to participate in this program.

GOSPEL CONCERT (Sunday)

This is a non-denominational Sunday morning program filled with inspirational and uplifting music. All acts must be self-contained and NO pre-recorded tracks may be used. Performers should be prepared to stay until the end of the program.

IWMA Contest Rules & Guidelines

TEAM PENNING (Saturday)

A committee will create a theme for the song and email it to the contestants two months prior to the competition. Be prepared to perform the song at the IWMA Convention on Saturday afternoon. The song can only be performed by the writers with no additional musicians or singers allowed.

- A team will consist of two people (one musician and one poet recommended but not required)
- Songs must be no longer than 4 minutes.
- Because of time constraints this competition will be limited to 18 teams.

POETRY (Saturday)

This is a contest to judge individual poets' recitations. Poets must recite his/her original poem. Reading is not allowed. You will have 1 ½ to 4 minutes in which to present your selection, including any introduction. Time will be called after four minutes. No exceptions.

You will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Rhyme** (*Avoiding slant rhymes*)
- **Meter** (*Adherence to uniform metrical pattern*)
- **Form** (*Uniformity of verse; consistent rhyming patterns*)
- **Theme** (*Appropriate Western theme, regardless of era*)
- **Value** (*Ethical, moral, principled*)
- **Delivery** (*Smooth flow of lines; inflection; diction; projection*)
- **Stage Presence** (*Interaction with audience; confidence, enthusiasm, attire*)

HARMONY (Saturday)

If there are not five (5) entries in this contest before October 15, this contest will be canceled.

This is a contest to judge your group's harmony singing ability. An omni-directional mic will be provided. You may use one instrument of your choice. You will have 4 minutes in which to present your selection, including any introduction.

You will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Technical Difficulty:** (*Complexity, structure*).
- **Vocal musicianship:** (*Intonation, rhythm and phrasing*)
- **Interpretation:** (*Communication, style, diction*)
- **Originality**
- **Appropriateness of song selection:** (*Western music*)
- **Stage Deportment:** (*Appearance, personality*).
- **Time allotment:** (*The 4-minute time limit means 4 minutes*).

There is no showcase application fee; however, each performer is required to register for **IWMA2025** at the basic registration fee of \$100. You can register now or wait until the final Ticket Order Form is published. This fee will include a nametag, all workshops, and showcases. ***Unregistered performers may not sell their CDs or books in the Mercantile.***