



**Belize National Song Competition
Rules and Regulations**

2017

National Song Competition

Rules and Regulations Booklet

Background

Each year, the National Celebrations Commission, strives to highlight Belize's rich and unique cultural heritage in the numerous events that are planned to commemorate our national celebrations. One such event is the National Song Competition which was created to provide professional and amateur musicians with the opportunity to create and showcase their original pieces. The goal of the competition is to promote artistic expression, nationalistic pride and Belize's diverse culture.

The National Song competition is comprised of two categories:

- **Category 1:** The Belize Song competition
- **Category 2:** The Carnival Song competition

The songs that are selected as the Country's best Belize Song and Carnival Song will be used by the National Celebrations Commission throughout the September celebrations and the remainder of the year.

The sections that follow outline the rules and regulations for the two categories of the National Song Competition, the Belize Song and the Carnival Song Competition in the Junior and Senior Division.

BELIZE SONG COMPETITION (JUNIOR AND SENIOR)

Outcome

The outcome of the Belize Song competition is an original song to be used during the September celebrations and throughout the year. The lyrics and music of the song should:

- (i) Reflect a strong Belizean Cultural identity;
- (ii) Meet technical specifications; have versatility and lend itself to be played by various instruments (stringed, steel pan, keyboard, percussion, wood wind) and be sung;
- (iii) Have a strong Belizean cultural flavour and rhythm; and
- (iv) Inspire a sense of national pride and unity.

The lyrics, in particular, should express clearly the meaning of the word **Cultural Relevance** - Love and Devotion for Ones Country. It should invoke a blessing and or evoke/celebrate the history, traditions and diversity of the Belizean culture, while sounding a call to build community and to uphold community values.

Eligibility

The Competition is open to all Belizean nationals and / or permanent residents. Groups of persons or individuals may enter but will be treated as one entity (Composers and Songwriters are encouraged to partner with Performers to enter the competition). The organizers, judges, and employees of National Celebrations Commission (NCC) are not eligible to participate in the competition.

The categories

1. A **Belize Song** Competition which should be an original song reflecting a strong Belizean identity, flavor and rhythm and should inspire a sense of national pride and unity. It should evoke a blessing or celebrate the history, traditions and diversity of the Belizean Culture.
2. The **Carnival Song** Competition should be an original song which will be used for celebratory purposes during the September Celebrations and throughout the year.

Entries will be judged based on: Audience Appeal, Musical Arrangement, Vocal Quality, Lyrical Content and Stage Performance.

We will also award the following:

- ❖ People's Choice for the most popular song (based on votes from the public)
- ❖ Breakout Artist of the Year

Technical requirements

The Technical requirements for the Belize Song competition are appended. All entries that make it to the Second Phase of the competition will be judged based on the technical requirements and the following:

- **Audience Appeal:** This encompasses how well the audience responds to your sound, your appearance, and how well you connect with the audience and their emotions.
- **Musical Arrangement:** How well the music piece has been prepared, and written for presentation.
- **Vocal Quality:** Vocal performance has consistent quality and characteristic of voice, and performer is aware of tone and pitch.
- **Lyrical Content:** The lyrics of the song should express love and devotion for one's country. This part of the competition is weighted very heavily.
- **Stage Presence:** This encompasses performer's attire, body movement and facial expressions while performing on stage. Performers are encouraged to include dramatizations and choreography to enhance their performance.
- **Cultural Relevance:** Encompassing Belizean culture

Selection Process

The competition shall be coordinated at the national level. It will be judged by a panel of experts using selection criteria, which meet affective and aesthetic criteria. The competition will be divided into two categories; the senior category and the junior category and will be judged in two phases:

- Phase One:** All entries must be submitted to the National Celebrations Commission through the Institute of Creative Arts at district level competitions where participants will perform for live judges for a spot in the final competition. During this first phase, all entries will be reviewed by a panel of five expert judges¹. Ten songs (semi-finalists) will be selected to move on to the second phase.
- Phase Two:** In the second phase, the ten finalists will be required to perform their song on stage in front of a live audience, accompanied by a live band, provided by National Celebrations Commission (NCC). The same panel of five expert judges, using the

¹ Appendix 2 lists the composition of the Expert Panel of Judges.

mentioned selection criteria, will select the winning song, the second and third place winners.

Intellectual property

Once entries are submitted, the creator agrees for the National Celebrations Commission (NCC) to utilize the submission for a period of one year.

Awards

The Belize Song Competition will be judged according to two categories: the senior category and the junior category. The senior category will be comprised of entrants 18 years and older and the junior category will be comprised of entrants 17 years and younger. In the senior category, the first and second prize winners will all receive cash prizes and in the junior category, the first and second place winners will receive cash prizes, as outlined below:

Belize Song Senior Category (18 & older)

1st place - \$10,000 and a Trophy (this includes a video and trip to a regional competition or festival)

2nd Place - \$3,000 and a Trophy

Belize Song Junior Category (17 & younger)

1st Place- \$1500.00 and a Trophy (plus a video)

2nd Place-\$1000.00 and a Trophy

Breakout Artist Award

Prize - \$500.00

People's Choice Award

Prize - \$500.00

All prize packages for both the Senior and Junior categories include a Gift Certificate for Studio Time.

Rules and Regulations

1. The National Song Competition is open to all Belizean Nationals or Permanent Residents.
2. The organizers, judges, and employees of National Celebrations Commission and their immediate family i.e. parent, husband, siblings and children are not eligible to participate in the competition.
3. Entries can be in any language but they must be accompanied by an English translation of the lyrics.
4. Professional recording is not required; however, each entry package must include:
 - Completed entry form with original signature;

- Audio recording with vocals for each song, Five (5) minutes or less in duration; and
 - Typed Lyrics Sheet.
5. The CD should contain only the entry song and should not have any part of the recording or label which can identify the artist(s), applicant(s), producer(s) or the songwriter(s).
 6. The Songs should express clearly the meaning of the word **Cultural Relevance** - Love and Devotion for Ones Country. It should invoke a blessing and or evoke/celebrate the history, traditions and diversity of the Belizean culture, while sounding a call to build community and to uphold community. The song should be one that is memorable with popular and emotional appeal.
 7. Entries that contain profanity will be disqualified.
 8. All entries submitted must be original songs and shall not infringe on any copyrights or any other rights of a third party. The Entrant warrants that the entry is an original song and Entrants shall, by entering, indemnify and hold the National Celebrations Commission harmless against any claims inconsistent with the foregoing.
 9. Deadline for registration to be submitted is **Friday, July 21, 2017 at 5:00pm**.
 10. Songs which do not satisfy the above criteria and the technical specifications will be rejected.
 11. Semi-finalists from both the senior and junior categories will be selected by the expert panel of judges and will be required to perform LIVE renditions at the finals.
 12. Songs that qualify for the semi-finals will be uploaded onto the National Celebrations Commission website at www.mynationalsong.bz where the general public will be able to listen to all semi-finalists and vote for their favourite song.
 13. A maximum of ten (10) songs will be selected as semi-finalists. All semi-finalists will be required to perform on stage at the finals with a **Live Band** provided by **National Celebrations Commission**.
 14. Finalists shall make themselves available, during the course of the Competition, for mandatory rehearsals and all promotional activities.
 15. Entrants agree to release, indemnify, and hold the National Celebrations Commission, its sponsors, and judges harmless for liability, damages, or claims for injury or loss to any person or property relating to, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, participation in promotional activities.
 16. By entering the Belize Song Competition, entrants agree to accept and be bound by the decisions of the National Celebrations Commission and its judges, which are final and binding in all

matters.

17. Entrants agree to be bound by all terms of these Rules and Regulations as established herein.
18. A maximum of four supporting musicians may be allowed to accompany each participant for their performance on stage.
19. Judges must review and approve all final scores before announcement.

ALL JUDGES SCORES ARE FINAL

CARNIVAL SONG COMPETITION (JUNIOR AND SENIOR)

Outcome

The outcome of the Carnival Song Competition is an original song to be used during the September celebrations and throughout the year. The lyrics and music of the song should:

- (i) Reflect a strong Belizean Cultural identity;
- (ii) Meet technical specifications; have versatility and lend itself to be played by various instruments (stringed, steel pan, keyboard, percussion, wood wind) and be sung;
- (iii) Have a strong Belizean cultural flavour and rhythm; and
- (iv) Inspire a sense of national pride and unity.

Eligibility

The competition is open to all Belizean nationals and / or permanent residents. Groups of persons or individuals may enter but will be treated as one entity (Composers and Songwriters are encouraged to partner with Performers to enter the competition). The organizers, judges, employees of National Celebrations Commission and their immediate families are not eligible to participate in the competition.

Technical requirements

The Technical requirements for the Carnival Song competition are appended. All entries that make it to the Second Phase of the competition will be judged based on the technical requirements and the following:

- **Audience Appeal:** This encompasses how well the audience responds to your sound, your appearance, and how well you connect with the audience and their emotions.

- **Musical Arrangement:** How well the music piece has been prepared, and written for presentation.
- **Vocal Quality:** Vocal performance has consistent quality and characteristic of voice, and performer is aware of tone and pitch.
- **Lyrical Content:** The lyrics of the song should express the overall merriment of carnival and celebrations of September.
- **Stage Presence:** This encompasses performer’s attire, body movement and facial expressions while performing on stage. Performers are encouraged to include dramatizations and choreography to enhance their performance.
- **Cultural Relevance:** Encompassing Belizean culture

Selection Process

The competition shall be coordinated at the national level. It will be judged by a panel of experts using selection criteria, which meet affective and aesthetic criteria. The competition will be divided into two categories; the senior category and the junior category and will be judged in two phases:

- (i) **Phase One:** All entries must be submitted to the National Celebrations Commission through district eliminations. During this first phase, all competing participants will be reviewed by a panel of five expert judges². Ten songs (semi-finalists) will be selected to move on to the second phase.
- (ii) **Phase Two:** In the second phase, the ten finalists will be required to perform their song on stage in front of a live audience, accompanied by a live band, provided by the National Celebrations Commission (NCC). The same panel of five expert judges, using the aforementioned selection criteria, will select the winning song, the second and third place winners.

Intellectual property

Once entries are submitted, the creator agrees for the National Celebrations Commission (NCC) to utilize the submission for a period of one year.

Awards

The Carnival Song competition will be judged according to two categories; the senior category and the junior category. The senior category will be comprised of entrants 18 years and older and the junior category will be comprised of entrants 17 years and younger. In the senior category, the first, second

² Appendix 2 lists the composition of the Expert Panel of Judges.

and third place winners will all receive cash prizes and in the junior category, the first and second place winners will receive cash prizes, as outlined below.

Carnival Song Senior Category (18 & older)

1st place - \$10,000 and a Trophy (this includes a video and trip to a regional competition or festival)

2nd Place - \$3000 and a Trophy

Carnival Song Junior Category (17 & younger)

1st Place- \$1,500 and a Trophy (plus video)

2nd Place-\$1,000 and a Trophy

Breakout Artist Award

Prize - \$500.00

People's Choice Award

Prize - \$500.00

There will also be a **Carnival Road March Song of the Year**. This song will be judged based on the most played song during the carnival season by any given carnival band and the frequency of rotation on local Radio Station. **Prize - \$1000 and a Trophy**

All prize packages for both the Senior and Junior categories include a Gift Certificate for Studio Time.

Rules and Regulations

1. The Carnival Song Competition is open to all Belizean Nationals or Permanent Residents.
2. The organizers, judges, and employees of National Celebrations Commission and their immediate family i.e. parent, husband, siblings and children are not eligible to participate in the competition.
3. Entries can be in any language but they must be accompanied by an English translation of the lyrics.
4. Professional recording is not required; however, each entry package must include:
 - Completed entry form with original signature;
 - Audio recording with vocals for each song, Five (5) minutes or less in duration; and
 - Typed Lyrics Sheet.
5. The CD should contain only the entry song and should not have any part of the recording or label which can identify the artist(s), applicant(s), producer(s) or the songwriter(s).

6. All entries submitted must be original songs and shall not infringe on any copyrights or any other rights of a third party. The Entrant warrants that the entry is an original song and Entrants shall, by entering, indemnify and hold the National Celebrations Commission harmless against any claims inconsistent with the foregoing.
7. Entries that contain profanity will be disqualified.
8. Deadline for registration to be submitted is **Friday, July 21, 2017 at 5:00pm.**
9. Songs which do not satisfy the above criteria and the technical specifications will be rejected.
10. Semi-finalists from both the senior and junior categories will be selected by the expert panel of judges and will be required to perform LIVE renditions at the finals.
11. Songs that qualify for the semi-finals will be uploaded onto the National Celebrations Commission website at www.mynationalsong.bz where the general public will be able to listen to all semi-finalists and vote for their favourite song.
12. A maximum of ten (10) songs will be selected as semi-finalists. All semi-finalists will be required to perform on stage at the finals with a **Live Band** provided by the **National Celebrations Commission.**
13. Finalists shall make themselves available, during the course of the competition, for mandatory rehearsals and all promotional activities.
14. Entrants agree to release, indemnify, and hold the National Celebrations Commission, its sponsors, and judges harmless for liability, damages, or claims for injury or loss to any person or property relating to, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, participation in promotional activities.
15. By entering the Carnival Song Competition, entrants agree to accept and be bound by the decisions of the National Celebrations Commission and its judges, which are final and binding in all matters.
16. Entrants agree to be bound by all terms of these Rules and Regulations as established herein.
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18. A maximum of four supporting musicians may be allowed to accompany each participant for their performance on stage.

19. Judges must review and approve all final scores before announcement.

ALL JUDGES SCORES ARE FINAL.

APPENDIX B: COMPOSITION OF EXPERT PANEL OF JUDGES

The expert panel of judges shall be comprised of five experts. The composition of the panel shall be as follows:

- 1) An individual recommended by the major partner of the September celebrations.
- 2) An individual recommended by the Belize Mayor's Association
- 3) An individual recommended by the Belize Society for Composers, Authors and Publishers (BSCAP)
- 4) Two individuals recommended by NICH of which one will be representing the DJ Community.