

KWCUSA Global Song Contest Guidelines

The KWC Song Contest is a global competition designed to discover and showcase new music from songwriters and producers across all genres and languages. Unlike traditional singer-songwriter competitions, Worlds is open to diverse musical styles beyond mainstream pop, encouraging cultural variety and originality in songwriting

- **Age Requirement:** The person registering the song must be 18+ and The person or people performing the song at the KWCUSA National Finals must be 21+
- **Residency Status:** At least one song writer and the performer must be a U.S. Citizen or have resident status +3 years
- **Song Production:** Songs may be produced either by an individual or team
- **Entry Format:** Video or audio submission only, recorded in a quiet setting, featuring a single song.
- **Song Length:** Songs must not be longer than 3 minutes and 30 seconds for entry
- **Original Music Only:** Songs should not be entered into other competitions or performed publicly prior to entry to be considered as original for this competition
- **Use of AI Disclosure:** Use of AI Assistance must be disclosed at the time of registration
- **Lyrics:** Songs must have lyrics, no instrumentals will be accepted
- **Legal Verification:** Lyrics and musical stems or mechanical rights must be provided upon request. Songs containing samples are automatically disqualified unless mechanical rights are proven.
- **Industry Restrictions:** Participants **must not be signed** to a label that would conflict with the promotion and production of the song by KWC
- **Judging Panel:** To be composed of musical professionals who are not eligible to compete.
- **Additional Submission Requirements:** Entrants may provide links to their social media, music, artist website, and an Electronic Press Kit (EPK) as an optional step if they so choose
- **Performance Commitment:** Songwriters must either sing their own songs or provide a singer to perform it who is **unsigned by any entity that could conflict with future production rights.**
- **Performing Live:** A maximum of 6 people will be allowed on stage; Dancers are allowed; A maximum of 4 microphones will be available on stage; Songs will be performed to backing tracks and no live instruments are allowed; Acoustic instruments will be allowed but will not be amplified for the performances; Props are allowed as long as they are managed by the performer, do not require clean up and do not cause delays.
- **Rights Agreement:** KWC reserves the right to use all submitted materials for promotional purposes across all media platforms, including social media, marketing, and event-related broadcasts or publications, with no regional or time restrictions.

All Entrants, and their publishers if applicable, will retain all copyrights and all other rights controlled by them regarding any song entered in the Contest. The songwriter will not lose any rights to their song.

- **Song Selection Process:** Submitted songs will be posted publicly on kwcusa.org for everyone in the U.S. to review. Winning songs will be selected with a combination of jury and public voting. Registered songs submitted prior to the deadline of June 15th 2025 will be open for review and judging from June 16th to June 30th 2025. Winning songs will be announced on July 4th 2025. The top 10 songs by jury vote will be decided from the set criteria for this division: Lyrics, Composition, Originality, Emotional & Artistic Impact, & Marketability. The top 10 for public vote will consist of those songs that were the highest vote getters overall but did not place in with jury scores. The top 20 songs selected (10 jury/10 public) by vote will be invited to perform the song live in the KWCUSA National Finals.