



Jamaica Gospel Star 2024

STRUCTURE

The 2024 cycle of the Jamaica Gospel Star competition will continue the new format introduced in 2021, which will see contestants performing their favourite cover song using different genres during four weeks of intense competition.

This year:

- The competition will take the form of an **UNORIGINAL** song competition;
- The competition will be conducted virtually for the first phase;
- Entrants will be asked to complete the entry form online on the JCDC website www.jcdc.gov.jm; or download entry form and submit at their parish office
- Entrants will then be asked to submit video recordings of them performing a favourite unoriginal or original song. Each song must be **NO LONGER THAN 2½ MINUTES**;
- Each contestant can only submit **ONE ENTRY**;
- The songs will then be adjudicated by an expert panel of judges who will select finalists.

Selection of the Gospel Winner – Televised Series

The finalists will compete via a televised elimination series where the winner will be selected by public vote and adjudication.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Jamaica Gospel Star Competition encourages performers to express themselves utilizing **any genre of music** to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is open to Jamaican citizens and persons of other nationalities who have been residing in Jamaica for a period not less than two years at the closing date of entries.

Process Outline

Access and Distribution of Entry forms

- Entries open in January 2024.
- Entry forms and the rules and regulations are available at
 - JCDC Head Office
 - JCDC Parish Offices Island wide
 - JCDC website www.jcdc.gov.jm

Entry Information

- All entrants **MUST** be 16 years or older (*whatever the age is as at September 1 of the competition year is the age that carries throughout the competition irrespective of closing date of entries*).
- Entry forms must be submitted on or before the deadline.
- Entries must be reflective of any gospel theme and can represent any genre.
- An entry must be performed by a **soloist OR a small group of up to 4 persons**.
- All Competitors and their supporters whose actions are deemed disrespectful to the judges, the Commission, its representatives, and/or other competitors or found committing any illegal act or behaving in such a manner as will bring the Festival of the Arts, and/or the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission into disrepute, ridicule or contempt may be disqualified from the competition.

Selection Process

All entries will be submitted to a panel of competent adjudicators who will meticulously select finalists from the entrants based on the following criteria:

- **Interpretation**
- **Presentation**
- **Musicianship**
- **Arrangement**

By an audited process of elimination by public vote and the adjudicators' scores, the winner will be selected from the finalists.

1. Audition Round

- At this level the performer will present the entry for a minimum of 90 seconds and maybe required to perform longer as may be required by the adjudicators.
- The use of voiceless tracks or musicians is optional and performers will not be penalised for the absence of same.
- Musicians and harmony singers are optional and are the full responsibility of performer

- The entry is judged on
 - Vocal ability
 - Performance
- Adjudicators will indicate if entry has been recommended or not recommended to the next round

2. Elimination Round

- At this level the performer will present the entry in its entirety
- The use of voiceless tracks or musicians is compulsory and the sole responsibility of performer
- Harmony singers are optional and are the full responsibility of performer
- Each song will be scored as follows:
 - Performance - 20 points
 - Musicianship - 30 points
 - Arrangement - 20 points
 - Interpretation -30 points

100 points

- The Twenty-Five (25) highest scoring performers will be selected for the Semi-finals

3. Semi-Finals

- At this level the performer will present the song in its entirety
- The use of voiceless tracks or musicians is compulsory and the sole responsibility of performer
- Harmony singers are optional and are the full responsibility of performer
- Each song is scored out of 100 points as follows:
 - Performance - 20 points
 - Musicianship - 30 points
 - Arrangement - 20 points
 - Interpretation -30 points

100 points

- The Ten (10) highest scoring performers will be selected for the finalists of the competition.

4. National Finals

- The JCDC will provide Harmony Singers for all 10 finalists
- The JCDC will provide one backing band which will provide musical support to all finalists at the national final

- Each finalist will perform one cover song per round which will be selected by the finalist subject to the approval of the JCDC or its representative.
- Each song is scored out of 100 points as follows:

- Performance	- 20 points
- Musicianship	- 30 points
- Arrangement	- 20 points
- Interpretation	-30 points
100 points	

Awards & Results

- Awards will be made for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners
- The results will be tallied by a team selected by the JCDC and verified by auditors

Please note that the prize list may change or vary in any given year.

Selection of Adjudicators

- The JCDC will provide competent adjudicators drawn from the music industry

Production

- The Finalists will be expected to sign agreements with the JCDC with respect to performance and recordings.
- Each finalist will work with the rehearsal coach employed by the JCDC to produce their weekly performances.
- Each week the judges and the public will select the finalists that deserve to remain in the competition based on a 60/40 split. The finalist with the lowest average will be eliminated.
- The JCDC reserves the right to amend the production arrangements from time to time.

Training & Development

- The JCDC will coordinate workshops and seminars to prepare potential entrants and finalists in the competition.
- The finalists will be expected to attend all training sessions with the band and harmony singers which will be overseen by a rehearsal coach selected by the JCDC.
- All Finalists is expected to attend all events planned for the promotion of the competition, such as outreach programs, roadshows, all media interviews and other performance opportunities