Jamaica Gospel Star 2027

STRUCTURE

The 2027 cycle of the Jamaica Gospel Star competition will see contestants performing their favourite cover song and/or original song using different genres including entrants' choice, Reggae/Dancehall & Throwback Jamaican & JCDC Gospel during five weeks of intense competition.

This year:

- The competition will take the form of an **UNORIGINAL** song competition; however entrants are open to singing original songs.
- The competition will be conducted virtually for the first phase;
- Entrants will be asked to complete the entry form online on the JCDC website https://jcdc.awardsplatform.com/
- Entrants will then be asked to submit video recordings of them performing a favourite unoriginal or original song live. The video must clearly show the entrant(s) singing in real time with face(s) visible and voice(s) clearly audible. The video must not feature an audio recording of the performance or footage of the entrant(s) lip-syncing to a pre-recorded track. Each performance must be a minimum of 90 seconds & **NO LONGER THAN 2 MINUTES & 30 SECONDS**; Files should not exceed 25MB & be in the following formats: MP4, MOV, MPEG or WMV
- Each contestant can only submit **ONE ENTRY**; if multiple entries are found for a contestant the most recent submitted entry at the close of the application period will be considered.
- Entries close March 31, 2026. Only completed and Submitted entries will be considered once entries close, In Progress entries will not be adjudicated.
- The songs will then be adjudicated by an expert panel of judges who will ultimately select the finalists.

Video should be no longer than 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

Selection of the Gospel Winner – Televised Series

The finalists will engage in a series of performance building workshops and training and move on to 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 November 1, 2026.
- Entry forms and the rules and regulations are available at
  - JCDC website https://jcdc.awardsplatform.com

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, duet 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:

- **Musicianship**
- **Interpretation**
- **Arrangement**
- **Performance**

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 which will be assessed for a minimum of 90 seconds by the adjudicators.

- The use of voiceless tracks or musicians is optional however; 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, the Elimination Round

2. Elimination Round 1

- At this level the adjudicators will assess the shortlisted entrants and their video will be assessed in its entirety
- The use of voiceless tracks or musicians is recommended 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

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    100 points
- The Thirty (30) highest scoring performers will be selected for the Elimination Round 2 of the competition. If a finalist is not able to claim their spot in the top thirty, the next eligible entrant (e.g. 31st , 32nd, and so on) will be selected to fill the position.

3. Elimination Round 2

- At this level the adjudicators will assess the shortlisted entrants in a live performance
- The use of voiceless tracks is recommended and the sole responsibility of performer
- Harmony singers (live or on the track) 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

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    100 points
- The Ten (10) highest scoring performers will be selected for the National Finals of the competition. If a finalist is not able to claim their spot in the top ten, the next eligible entrant (e.g. 11th, 12th, and so on) will be selected to fill the position.

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 finals
- Each finalist will perform one 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 75 points as follows:
    - Performance - 20 points
    - Musicianship - 20 points
    - Interpretation - 20 points
    - Arrangement - 15 points

    75 points
- Finalists will be assigned a unique voting number and the public will be invited to vote each week.

Awards & Results

- Awards will be made for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in the final round of the competition.
- Each week 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 75/25 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