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Updates for 2024

Please note that BreakOut West Showcase Festival submissions and Western Canadian Music Awards Submissions are separate for 2024. BreakOut West Showcase Festival submissions are now closed. Awards submissions will begin on February 2, 2024.

You must create a login profile on Awardstage to begin your submission. The platform this year is new and things may look slightly different than previous years. You will have to create an account to start. If you experience issues with Awardstage please contact johnny@breakoutwest.ca.

If submitting to more than one award, please note that the process has changed, if you need any assistance we invite you to watch the short video we have prepared.

[Click Here to view a submission tutorial video](#)

Early Bird Dates

February 2 - February 27, 2024 11:59 PM PDT

Artistic and Specialty Submission Fees

	MIA Member	Non-Member
Early Bird	15% Off	15% Off

Regular \$18.00 per category \$20.00 per category

Industry Submission Fees

MIA Member

Non-Member

Early Bird Free 15% Off

Regular Free \$10.00 per category

CONSIDERATIONS

- Submission to the awards do not guarantee a nomination.
- All submissions are only accepted online. If internet access is a barrier to submission, please contact your local Music Industry Association or johnny@breakoutwest.ca
- Submission fee payments must be made online by credit card
- Read all guidelines and category requirements carefully to ensure qualification.
- It is highly recommended that applications submit well in advance of the deadline to ensure there are no unforeseen issues. Submissions that experience technical issues within 24 hours of the deadline will not be granted an exemption if they are late. This may lead to your application not being eligible.

[Click here to download the Awards Submission Guidelines as a .pdf](#)

WESTERN CANADIAN MUSIC AWARDS Guidelines and FAQ

1. When is the submission deadline?

The submission deadline for WCMA 2024 11:59 PM PST on Monday, March 22, 2024.

It is highly recommended that applications be submitted well before the deadline to ensure there are no unforeseen issues at the time of submission. Late applications due to technical issues within 24 hours of the deadline will not be considered acceptable grounds for late submission.

2. Who can apply for the awards?

Submissions can be made by the Artist/Industry professional themselves or they can be submitted on the Artist's/Industry professional's behalf.

3. Do I have to complete my entire submission at one time?

- No. You have the ability to sign in and out of your submission at any time to be able to complete it over the course of time.
- Once you confirm and complete your submission, and after payment is accepted, you will no longer be able to sign into that specific submission.
- Make sure to have all information correct before confirming your submission.

4. How do I know that my submission has been properly submitted?

Submitting is a four-part process:

1. Have ready all media, music and documents. Create an account to submit.
2. Complete and upload music, info and pictures for your online submission.
3. Complete payment page

4. You will receive an email indicating that you have completed. Keep that for reference if you have any questions
5. Do I have to be a member of my province's Music Industry Association to submit to the awards or play the Festival?
 - No. It is recommended that nominees, and those submitting, be a member of a Western Canadian Music Industry Association but is not required.

The Western Canadian Music Industry Associations include

- [Music BC](#)
- [Manitoba Music](#)
- [SaskMusic](#)
- [Alberta Music](#)
- [Music Yukon](#)
- [Music NWT](#)

*Note, all MIA members will receive a discount for their submissions.

6. How can the payments be made?
 - You can pay with Visa or MasterCard. No debit cards.
 - You will be prompted to enter the payment information upon completion of your submission.
7. Are people who are not residents in Canada eligible for any of the categories?
 - No. The Nominee must have been born in either Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon or NWT and must have lived in one of those Provinces or Territories for six consecutive months in the past year (January 1, 2023 - March 22, 2024).

OR

 - The Nominee must have maintained a residence in a Western Canadian Province or Territory for the entire period of January 1, 2023 through March 22, 2024.
 - For groups, 50% of the group's members must meet residency requirements. Proof of residency may be required.
8. Can submissions be made to more than one category?
 - Yes. Both Artistic and Industry Award categories offer multiple category submissions.
 - [Please see the appropriate category guidelines for more information.](#)
9. What is meant by release date?
 - All nominees (for Artistic Award categories) must have released a minimum of 3 songs to radio, retail, or online between January 1, 2022 and March 22, 2024
 - There are no release date requirements to apply to the Festival, however priority will be given to artists who have released new material in the recent 18 months or will release new material in the coming 6 months.
10. If a Release/EP/Multi Media Item hasn't been previously nominated, can it be nominated again the following year?

Yes, because the eligibility period is longer than one year, an album may be eligible for two consecutive years.

However:

- the album must still meet all release requirements.

- no album will be selected as a final nominee in the same category two years in a row.
- an album cannot be submitted in one genre category one year and in a different category the next

11. What is the definition of a release and a full-length Album?

- To be considered for an award nomination, a minimum 3 newly recorded songs must have been released in the eligibility time-frame.
- Full-length (Recording of the Year only) means that the album is either a minimum of 30 minutes or contains at least six songs.
- At least 50% of the tracks must be previously unreleased songs. An unreleased song is defined as material not previously released to radio, retail or other public consumption. Re-recorded live or compilation releases must meet the same requirements.
- All recordings must fulfill all legal requirements, meaning that the songwriters have been properly credited and mechanical royalties have been paid.

12. Will EPs be eligible for nomination?

Yes, as long as the EP is at least three songs.

13. Can a submitted Album/EP include cover songs?

- An Album and/or EP will be eligible for all categories if at least 50% of the tracks on the recording are previously unreleased songs. Re-recorded live or compilation releases must meet the same requirements.
- A song is defined as material previously released to radio or retail.

14. Are Seasonal/Christmas Albums/EPs eligible?

Yes, as long as they still fit into a particular genre and meet all of the necessary residency and release requirements.

15. Can submissions be made into both the Classical Artist/Ensemble of the Year and Composer of the Year categories?

Yes. See [Artistic Awards Categories](#) for more information.

16. If there is a project that has more than one producer or engineer how should it be entered?

- A co-production or co-engineering team may enter as a team or as two separate entries.
- If making one entry, the team will be recognized.
- If making separate entries the other co-producers or co-engineers must be listed and credited where applicable.

17. Is there a minimum number of submissions needed in order for a category to proceed?

- Yes. There must be a minimum of four submissions for a category to proceed in any year.
- If there aren't enough submissions the category is skipped for the year and nominees can resubmit their album for the following year.

18. How are the jurors selected?

- The jurors will be chosen for their impartiality and demonstrated knowledge and expertise in their fields to collectively capture a diverse range of cultures and backgrounds.
- WCMA board and staff members are not allowed to sit as jurors or to influence the jurors' decisions of the juries.

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AWARDS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS: ARTISTIC

- All artistic award nominees must be residents of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon and/or the Northwest Territories, for at least six months between January 1, 2023 and March 22, 2024. The mandate of the Western Canadian Music Alliance is to support artists and companies who reside in western Canada a majority of the time and as such contribute to healthy and thriving music communities in the region.
- Groups: 50% of group members must meet residency requirements. Proof of residency may be required.

2. RELEASE REQUIREMENTS: ARTISTIC

- The nominee must have a commercial release between January 1, 2022 and March 22, 2024 .

A commercial release is defined as:

- A minimum of 3 new songs must be commercially released and not be part of a collection previously nominated within 24 months of the submission deadline.
- At least 50% of the tracks on the recording must be previously unreleased cuts.
- Exceptions to this are Jazz and Classical, and Electronic/Dance and Instrumental categories which must be at least 75% previously unreleased cuts.
- 'Cut' is defined as material previously released to radio or retail
- All recordings must properly credit all songwriters.
- All mechanical royalties must be paid.

3. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS: INDUSTRY

- All industry award nominees must be residents of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon and/or the Northwest Territories, for at least six months between January 1, 2023 and March 22, 2024. Companies must be registered companies in Western Canada. The mandate of the Western Canadian Music Alliance is to support artists and music companies who reside in western Canada a majority of the time and contribute to a healthy and thriving music community in their respective region.
- Groups: 50% of group members/company must meet residency requirements.
- Proof of residency may be required.

4. MUSIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

It is recommended that submitting artists and industry members be a member of a western Canadian music industry association, but is not required. If accepted, the submitting artist or industry member will be contacted to ensure current membership with their local music industry association.

The western Canadian music industry associations include the following:

- [Music BC](#)
- [Manitoba Music](#)
- [SaskMusic](#)
- [Alberta Music](#)
- [Music Yukon](#)
- [Music NWT](#)
- [Alianait Music](#)

5. NOMINATION & SUBMISSION DEADLINE

- Submissions Open: 11:00 a.m. PST on Wednesday, February 2, 2024
- Submissions Close: 11:59 p.m. PST on Friday March 22, 2024

Instructions for Submitting an Entry:

- Submission to the awards and festival does not guarantee either nomination or festival acceptance.
- Festival applicants must submit at least three professionally recorded songs for adjudication.
- There are no release date requirements for tracks submitted for festival consideration.
- All submissions are accepted online only. Before uploading any music, you will be instructed to install the Aspera app if you don't already have it.
- Payment of the entry fee may only be made by credit card online.
- Online submissions must be completed by 11:59 PM PST on Friday March 22, 2024
- One submission must be completed for each category submitting to.
- Read all guidelines and category requirements prior to submission to ensure eligibility.
- Please complete submissions accurately and in full. Submitted information is what jurors consider when adjudicating final completed submissions.

6. NOMINATION AND VOTING PROCEDURES

Each submission will be considered for selection as one of the five nominees in each category. The submissions will be screened upon completion to ensure that each submission is complete and meets all eligibility requirements. Any submissions that are incomplete or ineligible will be disqualified. No refunds will be issued.

A panel of impartial jurors from across Canada will adjudicate all submissions and select the final five nominees in each category. The jury committee reserves the right to categorize a submission at their sole discretion.

In the event that a category is overpopulated, a 'super jury' will be convened to conduct the first review.

Electronic voting will be open to all current members of the western Canadian music industry associations and to jurors for final voting to select the winners. Final voting results are equally weighted between western Canadian music industry association members and jurors. *The Audio Engineer , Jazz, Francophone and Classical, Producer, Children's, Excellence in Visual Design will be selected and voted on solely by jurors and will not be open to voting by music industry association members

7. MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS OF ONE ALBUM

Each category has its own restrictions and requirements. Make sure to read the [Artistic Awards Categories](#) for a complete list of all category specifications.

8. NOMINATION SUBMISSION IN SUCCESSIVE YEARS

Because the eligibility period is longer than one year, an album may be eligible for two consecutive years.

However:

- The album must still meet all release requirements.
- No album will be selected as a final nominee in the same category two years in a row.
- An album cannot be submitted in one genre category one year and in a different category the next.

All details are subject to change.

9. MINIMUM NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS

There must be a minimum of four (4) submissions for a category to proceed in any year. If four (4) submissions were not received for a particular category, that category is skipped for that year and nominees can resubmit their album the following year.

10. JURY SELECTION

Each award category will be juried by a group of at least ten jurors unless otherwise stated in Guideline #5. The jurors will be chosen for their demonstrated knowledge and expertise in their fields, and so that collectively they capture a diverse range of cultures and backgrounds. No WCMA board or staff member is permitted to vote or influence any adjudication.

The WCMA reserves the right to select juror(s) who are not a resident of one of the five member regions if it is necessary to compile a strong, impartial jury in a given year.