



## Tennessee Songwriters Month FAQ's

### **Q: What is Tennessee Songwriters Month?**

A: Tennessee Songwriters Month supports music venues, supports songwriters with live performances across the state, drives visitation, and inspires travelers to experience the state's music stories, history, attractions and venues. The program began in 2019, when a state statute passed to designate the last full week of February each year, typically a slow time for travel, as Tennessee Songwriters Week. In spring 2027, the Tennessee General Assembly established the initiative as Tennessee Songwriters Month.

**Q: When is Tennessee Songwriters Month?** A: Tennessee Songwriters Month qualifying rounds are Jan. 24-Feb. 6, 2027. Tennessee Songwriters Month showcases will take place Feb. 21-Feb. 27, 2027.

### **Q: What's the difference between a qualifying round and showcase event?**

A: In 2027, venues across the state will host in-person qualifying rounds Jan. 24-Feb. 6, 2027. Select songwriters from the qualifying rounds will advance to seven pre-determined showcase event venues that represent Tennessee's distinct musical regions across the state from Feb. 21-Feb. 27, 2027.

### **Q: I'm a venue, partner or city interested in Tennessee Songwriters Month. How can I find out more information?**

A: Please email the Tennessee Songwriters Month (TSM) team at [tnsongwritersweek@tn.gov](mailto:tnsongwritersweek@tn.gov)

### **Q: I'm a venue. How do I host a qualifying round?**

A: Venues and businesses interested in hosting a qualifying round must sign up and fill out and agree to a Memorandum of Understanding and be responsible for managing their own

sign-up process for songwriters. Sign-ups for qualifying round venues run Sept. 8-Dec. 3, 2026.

**Q: I'm a songwriter. How do I sign up?** A: Songwriters must perform in official qualifying rounds which will take place across the state from Jan. 24-Feb. 6, 2027. Songwriters can sign-up for qualifying rounds starting Dec. 10, 2026 until all venue slots are full. Songwriters can find complete information and the full list of official qualifying round venues at [tnsongwritersweek.com](https://tnsongwritersweek.com). Venues listed are responsible for managing the sign-up process. **Songwriters cannot perform at multiple qualifying rounds. If a songwriter performs at more than one qualifying round, they will immediately be disqualified.** Please thoroughly read the Songwriter FAQ sheet for timeline, process and full details.

**Q: I'm a songwriter. Can I perform with multiple people or have accompaniment?**

A: Songwriters may sing acapella or have live accompaniment. Light percussion is allowed if there is no set-up time necessary. This is a plug-and-play acoustic format. Songwriter may bring up no more than two performers to play an instrument. Back up tracks are permitted if it's an original track. Please note the additional performers will be considered one act/one entry. The original song must not disparage any group of persons, religion, be considered inflammatory or inappropriate. The original song will be performed at every stage of the competition, at the qualifying round, showcase and finale. Entrant must provide lyrics to song ahead of the qualifying round.

**Q: How are performances judged?** A: Songs will be judged on two categories: Category 1) Quality of Song (original lyrics/melody, lack of cliches, clear or unclear narrative). The first category will be scored 1-10 (10 being the highest) Category 2) Performance (instrument in or out of tune, ability to understand lyrics, connection with audience. Category 2 will be scored 1-6 (6 being the highest)

**Q: What is the schedule for performers in Tennessee Songwriters Month?** A:

Songwriters must perform in one qualifying round. Qualifying rounds will take place from Jan. 24-Feb. 6, 2027. Select songwriters from the official qualifying rounds will perform during one of the seven Tennessee Songwriters Month showcases in the following cities: Franklin, Portland, Memphis, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Sevierville and Jonesborough. Finalists from the showcases (seven total, 1 from each showcase) will get the opportunity to share their original songs on the historic stage at The Bluebird Cafe in Nashville in March 2027. Each of the seven finalists also receives additional prizes, including a one-year membership to NSAI and commemorative guitar.