



2017 Songwriting Contest

Contest Guidelines

Only entries submitted according to the rules and guidelines will be considered.

Categories

Country, Gospel/Inspirational, Pop/Rock, Bluegrass, Folk, Lyrics Only, Youth (Age 18 and under)

Registration Fee

First Song Entry - \$20 (\$10 each additional entry)

Each contestant will receive (2) two-day ticket passes to the Richard Leigh Songwriters Festival (\$40 value)

Prizes

Overall Winner: \$300 and an opportunity to perform at the Blue Bird Café in Nashville, TN

1st Place in each category: \$100 | **2nd Place** in each category: \$50 | **3rd Place** in each category: \$20

The songwriting contest is open to anyone who writes original music and **not** currently signed to a recording or publishing contract.

Rules and Guidelines

1. Contestants may submit up to three original songs.
2. Contestants cannot be signed to a major label or publishing contract. This competition is for emerging and independent songwriters.
3. Contestant acknowledges and agrees to perform in the Top 20 Song Performance and Awards Finale on **Friday night, May 27** at Heartwood. There is no performance for the Lyrics only category. **The winners of all categories will be announced before Richard Leigh's performance Saturday night, May 28 at the Richard Leigh Songwriters Festival at the Higher Education Center.** The overall winner will be given an opportunity to perform their winning song Saturday night.
4. All entries must be received, not postmarked, by **5 p.m. Friday, April 28, 2017**. No deadline extensions. No exceptions.
5. Time Limit: 5 minutes or less per song. Points will be deducted for exceeding this limit.
6. Contestant pledges that each song entered is an original and holds rights to the song and releases the Richard Leigh Songwriters Festival, VHCC and the VHCC Educational Foundation, Inc. from any and all liability to the contrary.
7. Finalist will be notified on, **Friday, May 12**.
8. Paid performers for the Richard Leigh Songwriters Festival may not participate.
9. Please include a lyric sheet with your submission.
10. All decisions of the judges are final. CDs and lyrics will not be returned.

Submissions

Submit by **Mail**:

- Send a CD (no cassette tapes) with the songs/tracks for consideration clearly labeled. Please place all songs/tracks on **one** CD if possible.
- Limit **three songs per person**.
- Recordings will **not** be returned.
- Mail or drop off your entry packet (**CD, typed lyrics, registration fee and signed entry form**) to:
VHCC Educational Foundation, Attn: Songwriters Contest, P.O. Box 828, Abingdon, VA, 24210

Or Submit by **Email**:

- Email your songs/tracks to **SongWritersFest@vhcc.edu**. File names must match entry form.
- You may attach your signed entry form and lyric sheets to the same email. Please contact us to make entry fee payment arrangements. You pay online at www.vhcc.edu/songwriters. Click on Contest > Submit Contest Payment

Indemnity and Release

Signature on entry form constitutes each song submitted is an original work and releases the Virginia Highlands Community College Foundation, Virginia Highlands Community College and the Richard Leigh Songwriters Festival from all liability. Entry also constitutes permission to use the winner's name and likeness for future advertising and publicity without further permission or compensation.

For more information about the festival or contest visit www.vhcc.edu/songwriters, call (276)739-2507 or email us at SongWritersFest@vhcc.edu



2017

Songwriting Contest Entry Form

Name:	Phone:
Age:	Email Address:
Address:	City/State/Zip:

Song Information

<input type="checkbox"/> Song #1 \$20	Song #1 Title: Co-Writer(s): Song Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Country <input type="checkbox"/> Gospel/Inspirational <input type="checkbox"/> Pop/Rock <input type="checkbox"/> Bluegrass <input type="checkbox"/> Folk <input type="checkbox"/> Lyrics Only <input type="checkbox"/> Youth
<input type="checkbox"/> Song #2 \$10	Song #2 Title: Co-Writer(s): Song Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Country <input type="checkbox"/> Gospel/Inspirational <input type="checkbox"/> Pop/Rock <input type="checkbox"/> Bluegrass <input type="checkbox"/> Folk <input type="checkbox"/> Lyrics Only <input type="checkbox"/> Youth
<input type="checkbox"/> Song #3 \$10	Song #3 Title: Co-Writer(s): Song Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Country <input type="checkbox"/> Gospel/Inspirational <input type="checkbox"/> Pop/Rock <input type="checkbox"/> Bluegrass <input type="checkbox"/> Folk <input type="checkbox"/> Lyrics Only <input type="checkbox"/> Youth
\$	Total Included

Songwriters Contest Agreement

I certify that I have read and understand the Rules and Guidelines of the Richard Leigh Songwriters Festival Songwriters' Contest, and I accept the terms and conditions of participation in this contest as stated in the Rules and Guidelines.

Signature on entry form constitutes each song submitted is an original work and releases the Virginia Highlands Community College Foundation, Virginia Highlands Community College and the Richard Leigh Songwriters Festival from all liability. Entry also constitutes permission to use the winner's name and likeness for future advertising and publicity without further permission or compensation.

If participant is under 18 years of age, the signature of a parent or guardian is required.

Signatures

Signature:	Date:
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:

☐ **Yes!** I would be interested in learning more about the
Virginia Highlands Community College Songwriter's Association

For more information about the festival or contest visit www.vhcc.edu/songwriters, call (276)739-2507 or email us at SongWritersFest@vhcc.edu