



REGISTRATION AND AUDITION RULES

REQUIREMENTS

You must be able to prove at the time of your registration and audition that:

- You are a legal U.S. citizen or a permanent U.S. resident who is eligible to work full-time in the United States; and
- You are 18 years old as of March 1, 2018.

If you submit yourself for consideration to perform at the Stellar Awards Independent Artist Showcase, you **MUST** be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of Central City Productions, Inc., producers of the Stellar Gospel Music Awards ("Producer") that you do not have any of the following agreements in effect (written or oral):

- a contract for talent representation (for example, a talent agent or manager);
- a current music recording contract;
- a current agreement relating to the use of your name, voice and/or likeness;
- an exclusive distribution contract; or
- any other contractual arrangement that would prohibit you from fully participating in the show and/or entering into any contracts required by Producer, including a recording contract and merchandising contract.

You must be willing to travel at your own expense, if necessary, to perform in the Stellar Independent Artist Showcase in Las Vegas, NV on Thursday, March 22, 2018 (or as otherwise scheduled by the Producer). Producer reserves the right to change the identity of the location at any time. All travel expenses for Stellar Independent Artist Showcase will be the applicant's sole expense.

Neither you nor any of your immediate family members (spouse, ex-spouse, parents, siblings, children, step-children) or members of your household (whether or not related to you) are current employees, directors, officers, independent contractors, agents, or representatives of Central City Productions, Inc. and its affiliates ("CCP") or their respective parents, subsidiaries or affiliated companies, or any of their respective licensees, successors or assigns; or any other person or entity connected with the production, administration or judging of the auditions or the Program; any television station or channel, cable network, or satellite network that may air or otherwise exhibit the Program or any variation thereof; any person or entity involved in the development, production, distribution, or other exploitation of the Program or any variation thereof; any sponsor of the Program or its or their advertising agency; or any person or entity supplying services or prizes to the Program. In addition, to the best of your knowledge, you do not know anyone who is now, or has been in the past two (2) years an employee or independent contractor of any of the entities described in this paragraph. Producer reserves the right to remove from the Program any person (including you) it determines, in its sole discretion, is sufficiently connected with the

Program or any of the entities described in this paragraph such that such person's participation in the Program could create the appearance of impropriety.

Producer has the sole discretion to make determinations of contestant eligibility, which are binding and final in all respects, and Producer reserves the right to change any of the eligibility requirements at any time.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Guidelines for creating your video submission:

- Perform two (2) songs and tell us about yourself – be creative!
- NO a cappella is allowed for video submissions. You must sing to a track, accompany yourself, or have someone accompany you.
- The "about me" portion of the video should be no longer than 2 minutes.
- Pay \$100 entry fee per submission (non-refundable)
- Print out and sign the release form provided at www.thestellarawards.com.
- Submit final video, release form and entry fee to: Independent Artist Showcase c/o Central City Productions, Inc., 212 E. Ohio, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60611, 312-654-1100 (no phone calls please)
- Deadline for submitting a video submission is Thursday, November 30, 2017

What to Sing on your audition tape: Be prepared to sing 2 songs to track or accompaniment. You may sing two (2) **Gospel** songs of your choice. If selected as a finalist for the Stellar Independent Artist Showcase, you will be required to perform one of those songs before a live audience and panel of judges.

Video must have been taken by you and you must have permission of any person who appears or is identified in the Video. If any minors appear in Video, the entrant must be that minor's parent and/or legal guardian. Professional Videos with watermarks are not eligible. Video must be shot vertically. Videos with pre-recorded backing tracks or original recordings are not eligible.

All Entries become the property of Producers and will not be acknowledged or returned. As part of your submission you grant Producers the non-exclusive, royalty-free, and irrevocable rights to use, reproduce, copy, publish, display, distribute, perform, translate, adapt, modify, and otherwise exploit the submissions and to incorporate the submissions in other works in any and all markets and media worldwide in perpetuity. Entrants warrant that they have the sole and exclusive right to grant such rights to Producers and that the Producers' reproduction, publishing, displaying, and/or other use of the submissions will not infringe on any rights of third parties, including, without limitation, copyright, trademark, privacy, or publicity, or create claims for defamation, false light, idea misappropriation, intentional or negligent infliction of emotional distress, or breach of contract. If any submissions contain material that is violent, pornographic, obscene, illegal, inappropriate, or racially or morally offensive or if any submissions do not comply with these Official Rules or meet Producers' standards for any reason, as determined by Producers in their sole discretion, such submissions (and the related Entries) may be rejected as ineligible for consideration. Entries must comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Producers shall have no obligation to copy, publish, display, or otherwise exploit the submissions.

JUDGING

SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF FIRST ROUND FINALISTS, AND GRAND PRIZE WINNER:

- There will be two (2) rounds of judging/competition:
- Round 1: Initial judging of the submissions by a confidential judging committee consisting of Gospel music radio announcers
 - one (1) or more qualified judges selected by Producers (“Initial Judges”) will review all submissions received during the contest period and select up to thirty (30) finalists to perform at the Stellar Independent Artist Showcase on Thursday, March 22, 2018.
 - Based on the following judging criteria (“Judging Criteria”): Vocal Ability (33.4%), Creativity (33.3%), and Originality (33.3%).
 - Each finalist will advance to the final round of a live performance at the Stellar Awards Independent Artist Showcase on Thursday, March 22, 2018 in Las Vegas, NV
- Round 2: Judging at the Stellar Independent Artist Showcase by a panel of three (3) or more judges to determine the Grand Prize Winner and two (2) runner-up winners of the showcase.

GRAND PRIZE

- There will be one (1) grand prize awarded (“Prize”), consisting of the following:
 - The opportunity to perform during the Stellar Awards Pre-Show in Las Vegas, NV on Friday, March 23, 2018
 - Certificate of Recognition as the Grand Prize Winner of the Stellar Independent Artist Showcase
 - Opportunity to walk the red carpet at the 33rd Annual Stellar Awards in Las Vegas, NV on Saturday, March 24, 2018
 - Two (2) tickets to attend the 33rd Annual Stellar Awards Taping in Las Vegas, NV on Saturday, March 24, 2018

RUNNER UP PRIZES

- There will be two (2) runner-up prizes awarded (“Prizes”), consisting of the following:
 - Certificate of Recognition as the 2nd or 3rd Runner-up of the Stellar Independent Artist Showcase
 - Should the Grand Prize Winner be unable to accept the grand prize
 - 2nd Runner up would receive the opportunity to perform during the Stellar Awards Pre-Show in Las Vegas, NV on Friday, March 23, 2018
 - Should the Grand Prize Winner and 2nd Runner be unable to accept the grand prize:
 - 3rd Runner up would receive the opportunity to perform during the Stellar Awards Pre-Show in Las Vegas, NV on Friday, March 23, 2018

Producers shall have no responsibility or liability for cancellations, delays, or any other change by any company or person providing any element of Prize, and are not responsible or liable for any expenses incurred as a consequence thereof. Date and/or time of events are subject to change.

Events are subject to cancellation. If Winner chooses to attend the events with no guest, the remaining elements of Prize shall constitute full satisfaction of Producers' Prize obligation to winner and no additional compensation will be awarded. Guest, if any, may be required to execute and return releases of liability and, except where prohibited, publicity releases.

CONDITIONS

In order to participate in the showcase, you will be required to fill out, sign and agree to all of the terms and conditions of Producer's required forms. You should be prepared to sign releases concerning the possible taping and/or recording of your name, likeness, voice, conversation, etc. If you advance in the competition, you will be required by the Producer to fill out, sign and agree to all of the terms and conditions of additional forms, including a talent management contract, recording contract and/or merchandising contract. You may also be subject to a thorough background investigation and other examinations, at Producer's discretion. **ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY AND TRUTHFULLY. IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLETE ANY FORM, GIVE ANY FALSE INFORMATION, OR FAIL TO REVEAL ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION, YOU MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.**

We reserve the right to disqualify and/or exclude, in our sole and absolute discretion, any individual from the Stellar Independent Artist Showcase for any reason or for no reason at all, including without limitation, violation of any portion of these rules, or tampering with the entry process. We also reserve the right to change the rules and procedures at any time. Being chosen to compete at any level in the process does NOT ensure that you will be selected to continue to the next stage.

ADDITIONAL TERMS

By participating, entrants agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of Producer and the panel of judges, which shall be final and binding. Your presence at the showcase, and the presence of your friends, family members, and anyone else accompanying you, constitutes your and their consent and agreement to the recording and use of your and their performance, appearance, name, voice, singing voice, likeness and any musical or sound effects produced by you and/or them for use in connection with any television program, motion picture, wireless/mobile device, or the Internet for all purposes (including advertising, marketing, promotion, merchandising and the exploitation of any and all ancillary and subsidiary rights), as the same may be edited, in all media now known or hereafter created, throughout the universe, in perpetuity for no compensation, unless otherwise required by law.

Your and/or their attendance at the showcase event will be conclusively deemed to be a waiver of any and all claims for invasion of privacy, defamation, etc. All federal, state and local laws apply. Dates and locations are subject to change. Central City Productions, Inc., production personnel for the television program, participating television stations, advertising agencies or any person or entity connected with the production, administration or judging of the auditions or the program, or any of their respective parent companies, affiliates, subsidiaries, successors and assigns, and the respective officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, partners, shareholders, attorneys,

representatives and members of each of the foregoing entities are not responsible for and shall not be liable for: i) any failure of transportation, incorrect directions, or the inability, for any reason, of any person to appear at the showcase site or appear before the judging panels; ii) any injuries, losses or damages of any kind caused by traveling to or from the showcase venue, being present at the showcase venue, participating in the submission process or being selected to or disqualified from continuing in the submission process and/or the Showcase; or iii) any printing, typographical or technological errors in any materials associated with the showcase.