



PRESENTS

THE NEXT BIG THING 2014

Rules and Regulations

Selections and Prizing

1. This competition is produced by SaskMusic on behalf of Big Dog 92-7.
2. Submissions must be made by submitting 2 original songs in audio or video format, the entry form, and other material as requested on the entry form. Each artist/group may make ONE submission only. Submitted songs must be original material, which is defined as: material written by the artist/someone in the act, OR material which has not ever been commercially released by any artist. (If you didn't write the song, that's fine just as long as it has never been publicly released.) Submissions which do not meet submission criteria, or that are incomplete, will be ejected from the contest. Big Dog 92-7 and SaskMusic reserve the right to reject any submission.

An impartial industry jury coordinated by SaskMusic, consisting of at least three jurists (i.e. established local country artists, media and/or other music industry professionals), will then adjudicate all submissions to select the Top 10 using criteria which may include: suitability of material for the artist, vocal quality, songwriting, overall performance quality (music), originality as an artist, and market potential. Artists selected by the jury to be in the Top 10 will then be notified.

3. The Top 10 will then be posted. The general public will be invited to listen to/watch information about each artist to encourage their interest in attending the live Finals show.

The Top 3 finalists, as determined by the judges, will be invited to perform in the live Finals show (currently scheduled for Thursday, June 26 at Eldorado Country Rock Bar in Regina). In the event that a finalist is unavailable or declines to participate in the finals, it shall be the judging panel's decision which alternate artist will be invited into the finals.

4. Finals: The finals show will feature the Top 3 finalists, and consist of a judging panel of at least three music industry professionals. The panel will rank each live performance based on criteria similar to the previous rounds, in addition to Audience Response. Participants must consent to their performance at this event being recorded on video and/or audio for broadcast.

The winner of the finals will receive a prize package valued at over \$15,000 including:

- \$10,000 cash;
- mentorship with SaskMusic professionals to review press materials and career planning;
- a prize package custom-tailored to the winning artist; which **may include** for example:
 - o studio time with a producer in a Saskatchewan studio to record a professional single;
 - o release of a single to radio (including manufacturing, digital distribution, tracking and professional photography);
 - o a trip to attend the 2014 CCMA's.

Additionally, the winning artist may be offered paid performance spots at the 2014 Craven Country Jamboree and Queen City Ex. Big Dog 92-7 and/or SaskMusic may offer the artist additional performance or showcase opportunities at their discretion and upon artists' agreement.

Logical career options and timeline will be clearly discussed with the winning act, with decisions made by mutual agreement between SaskMusic and the artist. SaskMusic reserves the right to ensure quality at all stages of prize delivery, such as use of a professional producer for recording sessions, and monitoring of packaging i.e. press kits, photos, and website design.

5. All decisions of the judges will be final.

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Rules

1. Open to any emerging country act (single artist, duo, or group) currently residing in Saskatchewan*, and who is at or above the age of 16 as of June 26, 2014. Proof of residency may be required in the form of a valid Saskatchewan Health card or Saskatchewan drivers' license. All members of the act must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.

The following exclusions apply:

- a. the act (as a unit) may not now be, or ever have been, directly signed to a major record label or sub-label (not including distribution-only deals);
- b. the act (as a unit) may not have ever been nominated for any Artist, Group or Rising Star categories of the Canadian Country Music Awards;
- c. The grand prize winner of any previous Big Dog 92-7 Next Big Thing competition will be ineligible to participate.

*In the case of a group: At least 50% of its members must be current Saskatchewan residents.

2. "Country" shall be defined as any form (i.e. mainstream, traditional, contemporary) as well as country-related genres such as bluegrass and roots. The suitability of submissions will be at the discretion of the initial selection jury. It should be noted that performance judges for the finals show will be looking at criteria which will include direction that the winning artist would be suitable for booking at a major country festival, and have "radio-friendly" material or sound.
3. Contestants must perform original material, which is defined as: material written by the artist/someone in the act, OR material which has not ever been commercially released by any artist. (If you didn't write the song, that's fine just as long as it has never been publicly released.) The act may perform one previously released ("cover song") in their set if selected to appear in the live Finals. Songwriting quality of the performed material, whether written by the artist or not, will play a significant part in the judges' scoring.
4. If invited to perform in the live Finals, artists must be available from 2-11 pm on June 26 for soundchecks and performance in Regina. Artists will be required to provide a set list and lyric sheets for the judges' review.
5. Acts are responsible for providing their own accompaniment for the finals, if desired, at their own expense. Artists may also sing to recorded tracks or accompany themselves (solo). Acts are responsible for all costs and fees associated with using their own band, a backing band, or singing to recorded tracks, and are responsible for their own travel and associated fees to participate in this competition. Professional sound, backline and lighting will be provided.
6. Finalists will be provided with an honorarium (which may be used to offset some of the expenses noted above).
7. Contestants must consent to their submission contents, including audio, videos, biographical information and weblinks (as provided on their entry form) being promoted to the general public. Additionally, we request permission to use your sound and image in photographs, ads, performance footage and promotional material to be used in relation to promotions in and resulting from this competition.
8. Winner and semi-finalists agree to participate in activities, as requested, and act as ambassadors of "The Next Big Thing" competition wherever possible for a period of one year following the competition.
9. Staff of Big Dog 92-7 and SaskMusic may not enter this competition as artists themselves or perform as accompanists during semi-finals or finals.
10. Staff of SaskMusic are ineligible to serve as jurists during any phase of this competition.
11. All jurists will be required to sign Conflict of Interest declarations, stating they will conduct their adjudications objectively.
12. Rules and information are available at www.saskmusic.org.

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