

BIG DOG  **92.7** **THE NEXT BIG THING 2011**
#1 FOR THE MOST COUNTRY

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Selections and Prizing

1. This competition is produced by SaskMusic on behalf of Big Dog 92-7.
2. Submissions will be accepted exclusively through Sonicbids. All submissions must include 2 original songs (*see Rule #3 below*), biography and, if applicable, performance history and upcoming tour dates.

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 rate all submissions to select the top nine candidates, using criteria including: suitability of material, vocal quality, songwriting, overall performance quality, originality as an artist, and market potential. Acts selected by the jury will be invited to participate in the semi-finals.

3. Semi-Finals: will consist of live, open-to-the-public events. Three acts will perform at each semi-final. An impartial industry jury of at least three jurists will evaluate each performance using criteria including: suitability of material, vocal quality, songwriting, overall performance quality, originality as an artist, stage presentation, and market potential. Participants must consent to performances being recorded on video and/or audio.

The winner of each week's semi-finals will be invited to perform in the Finals. In the event that a winning semi-finalist is unavailable or declines to participate in the finals, it shall be the judging panels' decision which alternate band from all semi-final weeks will be invited into the finals.

4. Finals: The finals show will feature the winner from each semi-final week, and consist of a judging panel of at least three music industry professionals. The panel will rank each performance based on criteria similar to the semi-finals, in addition to Audience Response. Participants must consent to performances 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:

- \$5000 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 for artist and/or two band members to the 2011 CCMAs.

Additionally, Big Dog is negotiating with Craven Country Jamboree 2011 to secure a beer garden performance spot to be offered to the winner. Big Dog 92-7 may also elect to offer the artist a private showcase opportunity during CCMAs, and/or other performance 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. Any recording sessions completed under this project must take place in Saskatchewan.

5. All decisions of the judges will be final.

Produced by

SASKMUSIC

Rules

1. Open to any emerging country act (single artist, duo, or group) currently residing in Saskatchewan*, and who is over the age of 19 as of June 1, 2011. 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, signed to a major record label or sub-label;
- 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 will be looking for an artist who would be suitable for booking at a major country festival, and who has "radio-friendly" material.
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, as long as it has never been publicly released.) The act may perform one previously released ("cover song") in their set. Songwriting quality of the performed material, whether written by the artist or not, will play a significant part in the judges' scoring. Acts will be required to submit a set list and lyric sheets prior to their performance.
4. If invited to perform in the semi-finals, acts must be available for set-up and performance on June 1, 8 and/or 15 at The Pump Roadhouse in Regina. Producers will try to accommodate specific date requests but cannot guarantee which date you would be scheduled on. Acts chosen to compete in the semi-finals must be available for the full day of finals, June 29, 2011.
5. Acts are responsible for providing their own accompaniment for semi-finals and 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. Contestants must consent to use of their sound and image in photographs, ads, performance footage and promotional material to be used in relation to promotions in and resulting from this competition.
7. 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.
8. Staff and board members of Big Dog 92-7 and SaskMusic may not enter this competition as artists themselves or perform as accompanists during semi-finals or finals.
9. Staff of SaskMusic are ineligible to serve as jurists during any phase of this competition.
10. All jurists will be required to sign Conflict of Interest declarations, stating they will conduct their adjudications objectively.
11. Rules and application directions are available at www.bigdog927.com, www.saskmusic.org, and www.sonicbids.com/nextbigthing2011. All applications must be submitted via Sonicbids.

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