

2015 VOICE OF PRIDE SOLO COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

The 2015 Voice of Pride Competition is coordinated by the Dallas Tavern Guild in conjunction with our June Pride Month Celebration and will consist of seventeen (17) Preliminary Competitions around the community and will begin in early June and continue through the end of the month. We will have four (4) Elimination Rounds where the preliminary winners will be narrowed to a total of twenty (20). Those twenty (20) will compete at the Semi-final Competition where we will select the top ten (10) to compete at the Final Night. There will be a complete listing of locations and times for these competitions in all Tavern Guild clubs as well as advertising in the Dallas Voice. The winner will win a cash prize of \$3,500, and will ride in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and perform at the Festival in Reverchon Park on September 20th, 2015. This year the winner will also receive two (2) round-trip tickets and hotel stay at a North American luxury destination. The rules of the competition are as follows:

1. All contestants must be 21 years of age or older, present a valid Texas I.D. and be a resident of the Dallas Metroplex area. Since the prize package this year is a continental US destination, you will not be required to have a passport.
2. These preliminaries are open to anyone in the LGBT community. The only stipulation is that you may NOT be currently making a living as a singer. It does not matter if you have had a professional career in the past as long as you are currently not working as a professional singer, or earning a living as a singer. If you are not gay you should have a solid visibility in the LGBT community and support our community regularly and attend our member clubs to qualify as a contestant. This competition is created specifically for our community and its supporters. At each level the contestants will be judged in three (3) categories; Vocal ability, presentation of song, and general appearance. The semi-finals and finals we will have a panel of seven (7) judges who will score the contestants. We will drop the high and low score and use the 5 middle scores.
3. In each Preliminary Competition, a panel of two (2) qualified judges will choose two (2) finalists. An additional finalist will be chosen by audience response. A total of three (3) singers will qualify to move on to the Elimination Rounds.
4. In each Preliminary, the contestants will perform two (2) songs of their choice. These songs must be no more than five (5) minutes in length, but can be as short as three (3) minutes. The combination of those two (2) scores will determine the winners for the judges selections. The audience choice will be made after the judge's selections are announced.
5. All of the preliminary winners will move on to compete in one of four (4) Elimination rounds. At the end of their Preliminary, the three (3) winners will draw a slip of paper from the contest coordinator. That paper will have the date and time of the Elimination Round where they will compete. The contest coordinator will record this information immediately so there is NO trading or swapping of dates.
6. At each of the four (4) Elimination rounds, the five (5) judges will select five (5) singers to advance to the Semi-final Night Competition. The contestants will sing one (1) song only at each at these Elimination Rounds. Again, these songs must be no more than 5 minutes in length, but can be as short as 3 minutes. The twenty (20) qualifying singers will move on to the Semi-Final Night competition.
7. At the Semi-Final Night Competition, the twenty (20) qualifying singers will again sing one (1) song only. The seven (7) judges will select ten (10) singers from that group to move on to the Final Night Competition.
8. At the Final-Night Competition the contestants will prepare two songs of their choice. A variety of style is suggested but not required. The songs must also be no more than 5 minutes in length, but can be as short as 3 minutes. There will be NO variable speed, tunable CD players, so be sure the song is in your key. The combined scores of both songs will determine the winner. We will use a panel of seven (7) judges at finals. This year, we will add a surprise element to the final night competition but that will be revealed after the semi-finalists are selected.
9. Remember, this is a solo vocal competition. No props, dancers, back-up singers, productions or on-stage wardrobe changes. This also means no-lip-sync. Please, no acapella vocals or live instrumental accompaniment. All singers must have accompaniment tracks. Be sure to use quality audio recording discs to assure your music will play.
10. You must check in and turn in your music to the contest coordinator during the registration times that are posted. No music or entries will be accepted after that time. There are NO exceptions to this rule.
11. Prior to the Semi-Final Night Competition all qualified contestants will receive specific instruction as to how the competition will be run. Those instructions are to be followed without exception. This will also be done for Final Night Competition.

12. After the four (4) Elimination Rounds, the Judges comments will be compiled and made into an e-mail document that you may request to be sent to you. You may request **ONLY** your own comments. Actual placement scores will **NOT** be made available to any of the contestants. This will also be done for Semi-Finalists and the Finalists.

13. You must furnish your own music on CD to the sound technician. **No borrowing House music is allowed.** Only instrumental tracks will be accepted. Be sure you have a back-up copy on quality recording discs. Any back-up vocals on the track must be minimal. Again, this is a solo voice competition.

14. Since this is a solo vocal competition, the majority of your score will be based on vocal ability. However, there will be additional points given in the areas of presentation and personal appearance. Make an effort to dress appropriately.

15. The winner of the competition will receive \$3,500 in cash, ride in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and will perform at the Pride Festival in Reverchon Park on Sunday, September 20th, 2015. They will also perform at various community related events throughout the year. The Voice of Pride officials will determine these and the winner will be given adequate notice of the events. 2nd and 3rd place finalists will also ride in the parade and perform at the Festival. The winner will also receive two (2) round-trip tickets and hotel to a North American luxury destination. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place finalists will receive cash awards as well. The winner will receive \$1,500 upon winning, and the balance of \$2000 after their performance in Reverchon Park.

16. We will **not** limit the number of singers who wish to compete at any of the preliminary locations.

17. All solo performers are limited to competing at no more than 6 preliminaries to try and qualify for the next round of competition. You may not try out at more than 6 different preliminary competitions in any one-year's contest. **No exceptions to this rule.**

Please read these rules carefully before completing the Contestant Application & Release and submitting it to the Voice of Pride Coordinator. You must comply by all the rules and requirements in order to qualify to compete at each level. Keep page one for your own information and give this page to the Coordinator when you sign up.

CONTESTANT APPLICATION & RELEASE

I have read and understand the rules and requirements of the 2015 Voice of Pride Competition. I further understand that any attempt to defraud or deceive the competition committee, judges or the Dallas Tavern Guild will result in my immediate disqualification. I am a resident of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex area. I will abide by the judges and committee's decision in all matters. I also confirm that the information I give below is true and accurate. If chosen as the winner, I will be available to appear in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and perform at the Festival in Lee Park. Failure to appear or perform will result in forfeiture of any and all prizes and prize monies. Any official photos taken will be available for local and regional promotions and are the property of the Dallas Tavern Guild.

Name: (please print or type) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____