



SONG of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Category 1

Rules and Definitions: Candidates for Song of the Year will be determined using data provided by *CCLI*, *Radio Charts (Singing News and BDS)* and *Soundscan* to calculate the most impressions/audience impact across a songwriter's body of work based on sales, airplay and church performance during the eligibility period.

A craft committee composed of music publishers, producers, radio experts, and label representatives across the CCM, Southern Gospel and Gospel genres will be selected to review the final **ten** nominees to ensure qualitative (the character of the music) and quantitative (the number of impacting single) credibility of the outcome.

A song is ineligible for Song of the Year if it has been in the top ten nominated songs the past two consecutive years or won the previous year.

Dove Awards are presented to the songwriter(s) and publisher(s).

ARTIST/NON-ARTIST

SONGWRITER of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Category 2-3

Rules and Definitions: The Songwriter of the Year categories will be determined using data provided by *CCLI*, *Radio Charts (Singing News and BDS)* and *Soundscan* to calculate the most impressions/audience impact across a songwriter's body of work based on sales, airplay and church performance during the eligibility period.

A craft committee composed of music publishers, producers, radio experts, and label representatives across the CCM, Southern Gospel and Gospel genres will be selected to review the final **five** nominees to ensure qualitative (the character of the music) and quantitative (the number of impacting single) credibility of the outcome.

Category 2 Songwriter (Artist) - A songwriter who is actively recording their own material and came to prominence as a performer.

Category 3 Songwriter (Non-Artist) - A songwriter who came to prominence as a non-performing songwriter.

The Dove Award is presented to the songwriter.

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN

SOUTHERN GOSPEL/GOSPEL

ARTIST of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Categories 4-6

Rules and Definitions: An Artist is a soloist or group whose preponderance of music performances and recordings are in gospel music.

1. An artist may be submitted a maximum of one time by a GMA professional member.
2. The 25 artists receiving the most entries will appear on the first ballot.

Category 4 Contemporary Christian Artist - A soloist or group in the Contemporary Christian genre whose preponderance of music performances and recordings are in Christian/Gospel Music. (*Includes: Pop/Contemporary, Inspirational, Rock, Worship, Rap/Hip Hop*)

Category 5 Southern Gospel Artist - A soloist or group in the Southern Gospel genre whose preponderance of music performances and recordings are in Christian/Gospel music. (*Includes: Southern Gospel, Bluegrass, Country*)

Category 6 Gospel Artist - A soloist or group in the Gospel genre whose preponderance of music performances and recordings are in Christian/Gospel Music. (*Includes: Traditional, Contemporary/Gospel*)

Dove Awards are presented to the artist and record label.



ARTIST of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Category 7

Rules and Definitions: An Artist is a soloist or group whose preponderance of music performances and recordings are in gospel music.

The top 20 artists determined by Nielsen Music Connect will appear as eligible entries on the first ballot.

1. The top 20 will be determined as the top selling artists (based on consumption) of up to two albums released within the last three years.
2. At least one single must have been released during the current eligibility period.
3. Prior to the first ballot, a craft committee will review all entries to identify any egregious omissions.

Dove Awards are presented to the artist and record label.

NEW ARTIST of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Category 8

Rules and Definitions: A new artist is a soloist or group whose first and only album in this configuration was released for general distribution within the last two eligibility periods (**May 1, 2018 - April 30, 2020**) and who has not previously been a nominee within this category for the GMA Dove Awards.

A preponderance of the artist's music performances and recordings:

1. Must be in Christian/Gospel Music.
2. Must be in the configuration (soloist or group) in which the artist is entered in the submission process
3. The **25 artists** receiving the most entries will appear on the first ballot

Dove Awards are presented to the artist and record label.

PRODUCER of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Category 9

Rules and Definitions: Eligible individuals must have produced or co-produced at least six recorded songs on product eligible in the current year's Album of the Year categories. Recorded songs where the entrant is considered the "artist" do not qualify for this category.

Submitting a Production Team:

1. To qualify as a Production Team, the team must have produced more eligible songs (at least six) as a team than any member of the team produced individually or as a member of any other team.
2. Eligible songs are released during the eligibility period of **May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020**.
3. Any song on which any member of the Production Team is also an artist cannot be counted as an eligible song.
4. Any song on which any additional producer(s) is added to the Production Team cannot be counted as an eligible song.

This category will not appear on the first ballot. The final nominees will be determined by a craft committee and will be submitted to the membership for voting on the final ballot only.

Dove Awards are presented to the producer or production team.

RECORDED SONG of the YEAR

DIVISION II / Categories 10–20



Rules and Definitions: This division takes into consideration the performance/production of a recorded song as well as the writing. Submitted songs must meet the following criteria:

1. Its first week of sales recorded by SoundScan must fall within the eligibility period of **May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020** or,
2. It may be released during the eligibility period as a national promotional release for radio airplay (in which case the release date of the single must be listed).
3. Any previous nominee in any Song of the Year category is ineligible.
4. Entering a song in more than one category in Division II will invalidate that entry in both categories.

Category 19 Spanish Language Recorded Song of the Year – A song must contain at least 51% lyrics in Spanish to be eligible. Translations and artists outside the Spanish Language platform will be eligible.

Dove Awards are presented to the artist and the songwriter(s), if other than the artist.

ALBUM of the YEAR

DIVISION III / Categories 21-31

Rules and Definitions: An album is defined as a collection of five or more songs in any recorded form other than video. Submitted albums must meet the following criteria:

1. Its first week of sales recorded by SoundScan must fall within the eligibility period of **May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020**.
2. A preponderance of the tracks on the album must fit in the musical style of the category entered.
3. The album must be previously unreleased recorded performances.
4. Entering an album in more than one category in Division III and Division IV will invalidate the entry in both divisions. (This also applies to Spanish Album & Worship Album)

Category 30 Spanish Language Album of the Year – An album must contain at least 51% tracks in Spanish to be eligible. Translations and artists outside the Spanish Language platform will be eligible.

Dove Awards are presented to the artist (if prominent on the album) and the producer (if other than the artist).

ALBUM of the YEAR

DIVISION IV / Category 32-34

Rules and Definitions: An album is defined as a collection of five or more songs in any recorded form other than video. Submitted albums must meet the following criteria:

1. Its first week of sales recorded by SoundScan must fall within the eligibility period of **May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020**.
2. A preponderance of the tracks on the album must fit in the musical style of the category entered.
3. The album must be previously unreleased recorded performances.
4. Entering an album in more than one category in Division III and Division IV will invalidate the entry in both divisions.

Category 32 Instrumental - Albums on which a preponderance of the tracks are without any lead vocal.

Category 33 Children's Music - Children's Music Albums contain music especially produced and totally designed for children's listening or performing.

Category 34 Christmas/Special Event Album - Special Event Albums are all albums on which one particular artist is featured on less than half of the recorded performances. A Christmas Album is defined as an album with a preponderance of the recorded material related to Christmas.

Dove Awards are presented to the artist (if prominent on the album) and the producer (if other than the artist).



**MUSICAL/
CHORAL COLLECTION of the YEAR**
DIVISION IV / Categories 35-37

Rules and Definitions: Submitted musicals and collections must meet the following criteria:

1. Released during the eligibility period of **May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020**.
2. Entering a Musical or Collection in more than one category in Division V will invalidate the entry in both categories.
3. Books and albums (if applicable) must be submitted to the Gospel Music Association office.
4. Musicals or collections DO NOT have to be tracked by SoundScan.

Category 35 Musical of the Year - Works with a conceptual theme and intended for performance in its entirety. Includes cantatas, oratorios, and masses; does not include choral collections or children's musicals.

Category 36 Youth/Children's Musical of the Year - Works with a conceptual theme and intended for performance in its entirety. Includes cantatas, oratorios, and masses; does not include choral collections or adult musicals

Category 37 Choral Collection of the Year - Music arranged for choir in multiple parts. Cannot contain storyline.

Dove Awards are presented to the creator(s) or arranger(s) & orchestrator(s).

RECORDED MUSIC PACKAGING of the YEAR
DIVISION V / Category 38

Rules and Definitions: Recorded Music Packaging includes CD, DVD, and other music packaging formats. This category will not appear on the first ballot. The final nominees will be determined by a craft committee and will be submitted to the membership for voting on the final ballot only. Submitted Recorded Music Packaging must have been released during the eligibility period of **May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020**.

Dove Awards are presented to the art director(s), graphic artist(s), illustrator(s), and photographer(s).

**SHORT FORM/LONG FORM
MUSIC VIDEO of the YEAR**
DIVISION V / Categories 39-40

Category 39 Short Form Music Video - A Short Form Music Video is a video or film product designed to present a single complete gospel song or medley. Music video content is defined as the combination of music and video performances. Significant changes in either constitute a new music video. Submitted Short Form Music Videos must meet the following criteria:

1. It must be a legally created video product that is in promotion of an eligible product or song.
2. All video entries must be submitted digitally or as a DVD with each entry on a separate DVD.
3. The video must be a concept music video not a performance video.

This category will not appear on the first ballot. The final nominees will be determined by a craft committee and will be submitted for voting on the final ballot only.

Category 40 Long Form Music Video - A Long Form Music Video is a video or film product designed to present more than one complete gospel song or medley. Music video content is defined as the combination of music and video performance. Significant changes in either constitute a new music video. Submitted Long Form Music Videos must meet the following criteria:



1. It must be released for the first time during the eligibility period.
2. All video entries must be submitted digitally below or as a DVD.

Ineligible for Long Form Music Video are: Video samplers, television programs used only for broadcast, videos in which gospel songs form less than half of the content and videos in which more than half of the content was eligible in any previous video eligibility period.

This category will not appear on the first ballot. The final nominees will be determined by a craft committee and will be submitted for voting on the final ballot only.

Dove Awards are presented to the artist, director(s) (if other than the artist), and producer(s) (if other than the artist).

INSPIRATIONAL FILM of the YEAR

DIVISION V / Category 41

Rules and Definitions: Inspirational Film content must be consistent with the worldview outlined in the Policy and Procedures manual. Submitted Inspirational Films must meet the following criteria:

1. Entries must have been released theatrically (on at least one first run screen/theater), have initial release or Nielsen SoundScan sales in the US Christian Retail market between **May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020**.
2. Must be "Family Approved" by the Dove Foundation.
3. Must be a feature length narrative film, mini-series and/or documentary 88 minutes or longer.

Ineligible for Inspirational Films are: Shorts, music, preaching or teaching videos, or films in which more than half of the content was eligible in any previous eligibility period.

Dove Awards are presented to the director and producer.