



RULES AND REGULATIONS

Prizes

1. The Grand Prize Winner will be the Headlining performer (two 45-minute sets) the Monday afternoon of the Fair and will receive a prize package valued at approximately \$20,000, including; a \$2000 cash prize, an artistic development package tailored to the winner's specific needs (e.g. songwriting coaching, artist and repertoire song selection and publishing consultation and vocal performance instruction, Independent Music Artist business development coaching), studio production consultation, direction, recording and mastering of a three song EP and booking consultation. In addition to performing the Headline spot the Monday afternoon of the Fair, the Grand Prize winner may also be asked to perform a live set gratis at up to three (3) State Fair events during the calendar year they hold the Superstar title, as well as kicking off the Michigan State Fair's live performances with a special set for the year following their win, and Emceeing the Superstar winning performances for the next winners. Should the Grand Prize Winner be disqualified or otherwise unable to perform their duties, they will forfeit their prize in its entirety to the Runner Up.
2. The Runner Up will open (one 60-minute set) for the Grand Prize Winner the Monday afternoon of the Fair and will receive \$500.00 and booking consultation. Should the Grand Prize Winner be disqualified or otherwise unable to complete their responsibilities, the Runner Up will be named the Grand Prize Winner.
3. One contestant will be named as Honorable Mention. This contestant will receive \$100 and be eligible to open for the Runner Up with a 30-minute set the Monday afternoon of the Fair. Should the Runner Up be disqualified or otherwise unable to complete their responsibilities, the Honorable Mention will be named the Runner Up.
4. The odds of winning will depend on the number of applicants and the quality of their performances.
5. The top three contestants will be informed of their top three status after the scores have been calculated, by 9:00pm the Sunday of the Fair. These three contestants may be asked to participate in a results announcement live on the Main Stage of the Michigan State Fair (MSF) or as a recorded segment for a local radio station the Monday of the Fair. The same Monday afternoon, the Honorable Mention will perform their set at 12:00pm, the Runner Up will perform at 1:00pm, and the Grand Prize Winner will perform their sets at 2:30pm and 3:45pm. Performers must be present and checked in at the MSF at least 60 minutes before their set is due to be performed. Failure to check in could result in disqualification and forfeiture of the awarded prize.
6. If, due to thunderstorms, fire, flood, other natural disaster, any other acts of God, other unavoidable and unforeseen event(s), or reasons of like nature not the fault of the party in performing under this agreement, than performance of such act shall be excused. In such circumstances, if some or all of the previously selected acts are unable to perform during the competition phase of the Michigan State Superstar competition, the MSF may make the Michigan State Fair Superstar selection based on other criteria or may opt to terminate the competition, in which case the MSF and its affiliates are under no obligation to provide the previously mentioned prizes.
7. All prizes must be redeemed within one year (365 days) of the announcement of the Grand Prize Winner, and must be claimed by the winner(s). The prize cannot be claimed by third parties on behalf of the winner(s), and if

the winner(s) is under 18, a parent or guardian must claim the prize. Failure to redeem within one year will result in forfeiture of any unused portion of the prize(s).

8. Except at the sole discretion of the MSF and its affiliates, there is no substitution, transfer or cash equivalent for prizes. Each prize is expressly limited to the item(s)/service(s) listed above and does not include taxes, gratuities or any other expenses.
9. Payments of all federal, state and local taxes related to the award of the above prize(s) are solely the responsibility of the winner of the prize. The winner will be required to complete and submit an IRS Form W-9 with the winner's full Social Security Number or the equivalent for receipt of any prize valued at \$600 or more and such winnings will be reported to the IRS. Failure to submit a completed W-9 or equivalent will result in forfeiture of the prize.
10. Prior to awarding any prize, the MSF and its affiliates at their sole discretion may require the winner(s) to sign a liability release which holds harmless the MSF and its affiliates against any and all claims or liability arising directly or indirectly from the prize(s) or participation in State Fair Superstar events.

Eligibility & Contest Submissions

1. This competition is open to current Michigan residents of all ages. Any members of the Michigan State Fair Steering Committee are not permitted to participate in the competition. None of the judges' immediate family may participate. Contestants under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian present at all stages of the competition. Residency to be confirmed by driver's license (of applicant or parent/legal guardian for minors) during the live audition portion of the process.
2. Contestants should not currently be involved in the entertainment industry as a musician or artist on a full-time basis (defined as 40 hours a week). Anyone who is currently signed to a major label, independent label, production company, or any other entity that would preclude the artist from legally creating a new recording with the Michigan State Fair (MSF) is not eligible to compete.
3. There is no entry fee for the application, audition and competition process. In addition, please be advised that neither MSF, nor their successors and assigns pays contestants to compete at this event.
4. There are four stages to the competition; (1) the video submission stage, (2) the live audition stage, (3) the semi-final competition stage and (4) the final competition stage. To enter, contestants must submit both a completed application and video audition. The initial audition entries must be received by MSF by the date noted on the current online application, found at <https://suburbancollectionshowplace.wufoo.com/forms/state-fair-superstar-live-audition-application/>.
 - a. Contestants should complete the online application form and submit it directly through the Fair website, if any problems are experienced in the application system, e-mail studiob.novi@gmail.com for assistance.
 - b. Taped auditions must be unedited, recorded in the 12 months prior to the video submission deadline, at least 90 seconds long, and no more than 5 minutes in length. They are accepted in one of the following three ways:
 - i. Submitted directly through the website application through a website link, or in .flv, .mov., .mpg, or .wmv format.
 - ii. On a DVD (which will not be returned, and becomes the property of MSF).
 - iii. E-mailed to studiob.novi@gmail.com (in .flv, .mov, .mpg, or .wmv format), with the file not exceeding 25 MB. Each file name must include the contestant name and the song title.
5. Live audition applicants will be selected from the taped audition entries and informed of their selection by the date noted on the current online application (refer to the web address in #4 above), at which point they will be reminded of the two available audition days and asked to make an appointment for their live audition (*special arrangements may be requested by those applicants selected for the live audition who live more than 100 miles away from the live audition site*). Selected applicants will have three days from the initial notification of their selection for live audition to schedule and confirm their appointment. Live audition appointments are subject to time availability and the number of audition openings remaining (early entries and responses receive higher

priority in live audition scheduling). The time and date that the entry was received will be determined at the sole and absolute discretion of the MSF. Anyone failing to schedule their live audition spot within the prescribed three days may be denied the chance to audition for a competition slot at the Fair due to failure to comply with scheduling rules. Audition time slot availability may be modified at any time at the sole and absolute discretion of the MSF.

6. MSF has the right at any time to require proof of identity and/or eligibility. Failure to provide such proof within a reasonable time frame could result in disqualification from the competition. All personal details and information requested of each contestant by MSF must be truthful, accurate and in no way misleading. MSF reserves the right to disqualify any contestant from the competition or auditioning process at its sole discretion, should the contestant at any stage supply untruthful, inaccurate or misleading personal details and/or information, or should the contestant be ineligible for the competition pursuant to these rules.
7. By submission of an application and entering into this contest, each contestant represents and warrants his or her compliance with these rules and regulations. No contestant will be permitted to audition unless he or she has acknowledged and agreed to these rules and regulations.
8. By submitting this application, each contestant acknowledges that there will be media, photographers, video and other documentation systems at the audition and competition sites and agrees that MSF and their successors and assigns have the right to use the names, likenesses, images and recordings that they control of all persons performing for future advertising promotion and publicity in any manner and in any medium now known or hereafter devised in perpetuity, without compensation to the contestants. By agreeing to this application you are agreeing to these terms.
9. By participating in this competition, contestants agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the judges. MSF is not responsible for any typographical or other error in the administration of the contest or in the announcement of the prize.
10. By submitting this application you are agreeing that if you are accepted to compete at the Michigan State Fair Superstar Competition at the Suburban Collection Showplace, you will complete and submit a Fair-provided stage diagram, including any backline, a minimum of 7 days prior to your scheduled performance slot, and that you will be on time for your scheduled set-up time and be ready to perform your set. Performers who drop out for any unapproved reason will be barred from competition for one year.
11. The MSF reserves the right to deny any submitted application, without giving a reason.
12. The MSF is not responsible for (i) lost, stolen, mangled, misdirected, postage due, illegible, incomplete or late entries; (ii) telephone or mobile service outages, delays, busy signals, facsimile transmission errors, equipment malfunctions and any other technological difficulties that may prevent an individual from completing and submitting his/her application; or (iii) entries not received due to difficulty accessing the internet, service outage or delays, computer difficulties or other technical difficulties.

Auditions & Performance

1. Live auditions will take place on the date noted on the current online application (found at <https://suburbancollectionshowplace.wufoo.com/forms/state-fair-superstar-live-audition-application/>), time slots depending on the amount of entries received and selected, to be announced by the date noted on the current online application. The 10 top scoring contestants from the live auditions will compete during the semi-finals at the Michigan State Fair (MSF) Superstar Competition between 11:00am and 5:45pm the Saturday of the Fair. The semi-final performances will take place on the Main Stage of the MSF, sponsored by Ascension St. John Providence Park Hospital. Contestants will be allowed a number of complimentary basic Fair entry tickets (Fair only, upgrades must be purchased) for friends and family, the exact number of which will be stated at a later date.
2. The 5 top scoring contestants from the semi-finals will compete during the final stage of the competition at the Michigan State Fair Superstar Competition between 12:00pm and 4:30pm on the Sunday of the Fair.
3. Contestants may perform either as a solo act or as a member of a group, but not both.

4. Contestants may not use pyrotechnics, open flames or other items deemed to be dangerous by the MSF as part of their performance.
5. Contestants may accompany themselves or bring along their own accompaniment in the form of live musical performance. If a drum kit is part of the live music accompaniment, the drummer must use the provided 3-piece drum kit. To keep auditions running smoothly and on time, there will be no change out of drum kits, though additional pieces may be brought and added to the provided kit. Recorded accompaniment is **NOT** permitted **UNLESS** it is created by the performer himself/herself or an associate who has given the performer permission to use their creation, and supplied by the contestant on a single CD or flashdrive in mp3 form. Phones, ipods or other mp3 devices may **NOT** be used. Background accompaniment must be clear of any and all vocals. Contestants found to be using “illegally burned” or “pirated” discs at any time during any portion of the competition will be immediately disqualified from advancing in the competition. No exceptions.
6. Contestants may sing the same song as another contestant. In the event that a song duplication is noticed by competition planners, the involved contestants will be informed and given the option to select a different song. Song change is completely up to the contestant(s) and not required.
7. The MSF expects all performances to be family friendly. Songs containing vulgar or explicit sexual lyrics will not be allowed. Any contestant profanity or sexually suggestive material on clothing will not be allowed. Contestants who, during their performance, use any obscene, offensive, sexual or otherwise inappropriate behavior or gestures, including without limitation those referencing or depicting violence, nudity or explicit activity, or which are not in the spirit of the contest, or do not meet MSF standards for any reason, as determined by MSF, will be disqualified from the competition.
8. Contestants and/or their family or associates who exhibit offensive behavior during any portion of the audition or competition process may result in the disqualification of that contestant from further competition. Offensive behavior includes poor sportsmanship, bad manners and lack of decorum.
9. In order to keep the auditions running smoothly, contestants are expected to be available to perform one hour prior to their audition time. Failure to do so could cause the contestant to forfeit their turn and possibly be disqualified. Entrance and exit from the stage is expected to be prompt.
10. Contestants are not permitted to leave the stage or stage area during their performance. This includes singing or performing within the audience.
11. **Contestants invited to move on to the live audition stage of the competition must come prepared:**
 - a. **with a portfolio containing at least 3 original songs.** This portfolio will be reviewed by the judges during auditionee set-up. Should the contestant wish their portfolio returned to them, they must collect it within 30 minutes of the end of their audition. Portfolios must be collected in person, they will not be returned by mail.
 - b. **to perform at least two songs, one of which must be an original song.** The time limit for each audition is 10 minutes. More than two songs may be sung within the 10 minutes, though if a CD/flashdrive is utilized as accompaniment, all songs must be on the same CD/flashdrive. A disc or mp3 file that fails to play, skips in mid-performance, or has any other malfunction does not give the contestant the right to start over or use a different disc file. The cause of malfunction may or may not be taken into consideration for allowing a contestant to continue. A contestant who has performed a portion of their song prior to any malfunction may or may not have their performance cut short. In the case of such action the judges will be instructed to judge the contestant as though the contestant completed the song. Auditions going over 10 minutes may be halted. Judges will be instructed not to deduct points due to the halting of an audition at the 10-minute mark.
12. Contestants and their families are not allowed to have contact with any contest judge before or during the competition performance periods. Judges on break during a contest period are treated as though they are still judging the competition. Contact includes verbal conversations and handshakes. Saying hello in passing is acceptable, but loitering in back of or around the judge’s area is strictly prohibited.

13. The 10 top scoring contestants who will compete in the final two competition stages at the Michigan State Fair Superstar Competition will be informed by the date noted on the current online application (refer to the address in #1 above), and will be required to prepare one ballad, one up-tempo song and one pre-selected song that will be provided for contestants to learn and prepare upon their selection for the Competition. In order to ensure that competitors are prepared to the highest level, a special clinic/practice session for the competition will take place with the Superstar Mentors on a date TBD.
14. During the Semi-Final stage of the competition, each of the top 10 contestants will have 10-15 minutes to set up and perform a sound check, 15 minutes to perform their three songs (this includes the time needed for brief applause between songs) and 10-15 minutes to clear the stage. Penalty points may be deducted from contestant point totals for exceeding these time restrictions.
15. The order in which each contestant competes at the MSF Superstar Competition Semi-Finals shall be determined by random drawing. If chosen as one of the top 10, you must submit your song choices by the Friday preceding the Fair. The same rules and regulations that apply in the auditions will apply at the Competition.
16. The 5 contestants making it to the final stage of the competition will be informed of their top 5 status and performance time by 11:59pm the Saturday of the Fair. On the Sunday of the Fair, the top 5 will have 10-15 minutes to set up and perform a sound check, 30 minutes to perform a sample of their proposed Superstar winning set (including their three songs from the semi-finals) and 10-15 minutes to clear the stage. Penalty points may be deducted from contestant point totals for exceeding these time restrictions. The same rules and regulations that apply in the auditions will apply during the Finals.

Judging

1. Contestants will be scored by three judges using a performance rubric, with the scoring of each section using a scale of one to five, with five being the highest and one being the lowest score.
 - a. Five (5): Perfect – No detectable weakness or problem in this area.
 - b. Four (4): Excellent – Only slight weaknesses or problems in this area.
 - c. Three (3): Good – There are detectable weaknesses or problems in this area, but not so serious as to greatly damage the overall performance.
 - d. Two (2): Poor – Serious weaknesses or problems in this area noticeably detracted from the overall performance.
 - e. One (1): Unprepared – Weaknesses or problems in this area detract from the overall performance to such a degree that the work is not ready to be performed in public.
2. Contestants will be scored in five areas; vocal technique/ability (1-30 points), entertainment value (1-20 points), stage presence (1-20 points), appropriateness of music (1-15 points) and appearance (1-15 points). Bonus points will be given for performance of original music and/or for the level of audience support/enthusiasm (measured by a decibel meter, points awarded will range from 0 to 5 dependent upon decibel numbers recorded).
3. Judges' scores will be tallied at the end of each competition day.
4. Judging score sheets may be retained by State Fair Superstar and its associates for their records. Contestants wishing to receive an overview of their scores and judging comments must make their request known in writing (an e-mail will suffice) within one week (7 days) of their performance date.
5. Contestants are expected to maintain a professional manner as a State Fair Superstar competitor, recognizing that judging is a service in that it is used to promote local Michigan talent and provide valuable feedback to amateur performers. Penalties for abusive behavior toward judges, whether from a contestant, their friends, families, fans or associates, may include disqualification from future State Fair Superstar competitions.
6. All decisions and interpretations regarding the contest, its rules, and the selection of the winner made by the judges, MSF, its agents and representatives, are final. Any contestant, their family or associates who argue with a judge may be deemed to be using offensive behavior and the contestant may be disqualified from the competition or the ability to compete again.

All rules and regulations are subject to change at any time with or without notice.

Last updated: 2/11/2024