

Caribbean Music Awards Voting Process

The Caribbean Music Awards recognizes excellence in Caribbean music by incorporating a comprehensive voting process rooted in public participation, music data, cultural influence, and expert insight. The process unfolds over four distinct stages:

Stage 1: Submissions

Period: *January 1 – December 31*

- Artists and industry professionals can submit their entries online via the Caribbean Music Awards website.
 - Subscribers to CaribMusicAwards.com will be sent pre voting link to cast pre votes and submit new entries.
 - Submissions are accepted across multiple categories, including Reggae, Soca, Dancehall, Konpa, Gospel, Zess and more.
 - **Timeline Criteria for Consideration:** Entries must have been released during the full calendar year prior—January 1 to December 31—for all genres, **except Soca**. Soca entries will be evaluated with a slightly adjusted window to accommodate the genre’s alignment with the Carnival season. (October 1st, 2023-November 31st 2024)
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Stage 2: Pre-Voting

Period: *February 1 – February 28*

- The public is invited to vote during this preliminary round to help identify top contenders in each category.
- Voting results are weighted to maintain fairness and accuracy.
- Streaming data from leading platforms will be monitored and incorporated into the process to reflect public listening trends and artist popularity.

Stage 3: Nominations Released

Period: *April*

- Top performers and contributors in each category are selected as official nominees.
- A board of industry professionals reviews all nominees to confirm their eligibility and impact.
- Final nominee lists are announced on the Caribbean Music Awards website and across our social media platforms.

Stage 4: Final Decisions

Period: *April – May 31*

- Final voting is open to the public, with weighted votes ensuring balanced representation.
- The industry board will also cast votes, contributing significantly to the final outcomes.
- Award winners are determined through a combination of public support, streaming data, and board evaluation.

Key Dates

- **Submission Deadline:** December 31
- **Pre-Voting Period:** January 1 – February 28
- **Nominee Announcements:** April 9
- **Final Voting Period:** April 9 – May 31
- **Awards Ceremony:** August 28

Voting Criteria

- **Streaming Performance:** Streaming metrics provide insight into an artist's reach and popularity. These figures are integrated into the evaluation process.
- **Cultural Impact:** Nominees are recognized for promoting and preserving Caribbean culture through their music and artistry.
- **Board Consideration:** A panel of respected music industry professionals ensures that each winner meets the guidelines, standards of excellence, influence, and relevance in their field.

Timeline Criteria for Consideration

- **General Rule:** Eligible entries must be officially released between **January 1 and December 31** of the previous calendar year.
- **Exception – Soca:** Due to its seasonal nature, Soca music may follow an alternate eligibility timeline that aligns more closely with the Carnival season.

As we build the Caribbean Music Awards, we felt it was important to respect and support the natural alignment of Soca music with the Carnival season. Soca is a global genre, and in the future, we may align its timeline with that of all other genres to reflect year-round visibility and impact.

Our mission includes encouraging the global promotion of Soca music throughout the year. If you don't see your favorite Soca song represented in this year's show, there's a good chance it will be celebrated in the next. We're committed to honoring the music and the culture in the most thoughtful and inclusive way possible.