

CARIBBEAN MUSIC AWARDS 2026

OFFICIAL VOTING RULES

**THE 2026 AWARDS PROCESS COMPRISES OF FOUR
OFFICIAL STAGES.**

**The Caribbean Music Awards honors excellence in
Caribbean music through a transparent,
structured, and culturally grounded voting system
that balances subscriber participation, public
voting, verified music performance data, and
industry expertise.**

STAGE 1

The 2026 Awards Process Comprises Four Official Stages.

The Caribbean Music Awards team actively tracks Caribbean music throughout the year, including:

- Streaming platforms and digital charts
- Radio, DJs, and sound system impact
- Live performances and audience engagement
- Media coverage and cultural relevance
- Regional and diaspora influence

Eligible works are internally reviewed and organized by category for award consideration.

Eligibility

Song And Video Release Timeline Criteria

All genres (except Soca) must be officially released between January 1st and December 31st of the previous calendar year. (2025)

Soca Eligibility Exception

Soca music is closely tied to Carnival seasons; it follows a modified eligibility window.

For the 2026 Caribbean Music Awards, eligible Soca releases must have been officially released between:

November 1, 2024 – October 31, 2025

All additional categories follow the timelines above.

STAGE 2

Subscriber Pre-Voting

Pre-Voting Period: Monday, March 13th – Monday, April 6th

CaribMusicAwards.com subscribers receive official pre-voting links and are invited to participate in the preliminary round of voting.

Subscriber pre-voting helps:

- Highlight leading contenders**
- Validate trending artists and releases**
- Capture audience and diaspora feedback**

Pre-votes are weighted and used to help shape the official nomination pool. Streaming and engagement data are reviewed alongside subscriber participation and industry advisory board.

STAGE 3

Nominee Selection & Announcement

Nominees are selected using a combination of:

- **Subscriber pre-voting results**
- **Verified streaming and engagement data**
- **Cultural impact and regional representation**
- **Industry research and monitoring**

All potential nominees are reviewed by the Caribbean Music Awards Industry Advisory Board to confirm eligibility, category placement, and artistic impact.

Final nominees are announced on CaribMusicAwards.com and across official Caribbean Music Awards social media platforms.

STAGE 4

Final Voting

Final Voting Period: Monday, April 13th – Tuesday, June 30th

Final voting is open to subscribers and the public.

Winners are determined through a weighted scoring model that includes:

- **Final public voting**
- **Verified performance data**
- **Industry Advisory Board evaluation**

All results are verified before being officially announced.

Official 2026 Key Dates

- **Pre-Voting Period: Friday, March 13th – Monday, April 6th**
- **Nominee Announcements: Monday, April 12th**
- **Caribbean Music Awards Ceremony: DATE TBA**

CORE VOTING CRITERIA

Streaming Performance

Measures reach, consistency, and audience engagement.

Cultural Impact

Recognizes contributions to Caribbean culture, heritage, and global influence.

Subscriber & Public Support

Industry Board Review

Ensures artistic excellence, credibility, and category integrity.

Soca Eligibility Statement

The Caribbean Music Awards respects the cultural and seasonal foundation of Soca music.

While most genres follow a calendar-year eligibility model, Soca is evaluated under a modified timeline to reflect its Carnival-driven impact properly.

As Soca's global presence continues to expand, future awards cycles may move toward a unified eligibility period.