

**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](http://CaribMusicAwards.com) and across official Caribbean Music Awards social media platforms.**

# STAGE 4

## Final Voting

**Final Voting Period: September 20<sup>th</sup> to September 27<sup>th</sup>**

**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 20th**
- **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.**