

MALTA HIT SONG CONTEST 2008



RULES & REGULATIONS

01. The MALTA HIT SONG CONTEST 2008 is organised by ONE TV and produced by WHY EVENTS.

02. The Malta Hit Song Contest 2008 is open to all songwriters and singers who are in possession of a Maltese citizenship or dual citizenship (by the song contest's submission date).

03. Singers, composers and authors must be over 16 years of age by the song contest's submission date.

04. There is no limit on how many entries each songwriter and singer can submit. HOWEVER from the TELEVISED PHASE onwards, each singer must retain **ONE ENTRY** only. In case a singer has 2 or more songs in the TELEVISED PHASE, s/he must retain the song which obtained most points in the previous selection phase. The other songs can be passed on to other singers or withdrawn from the competition upon discretion of the respective composer.

05. The recording must be clear and of an optimum level. At no stage following submissions will changes in the compositions be permitted (except for a change of singer in cases referred to in rule 04).

06. Each song submitted must be original in lyrics and music. Authors may choose any subject for their songs, however, songs with racist, sexist, political discrimination or anti-religious remarks will be disqualified.

07. The lyrics should be mainly in English but may include short phrases (or verses) in Maltese. 10 copies of the lyrics must be provided and placed in envelope marked 'A'.

08. Each song submitted must not have been released or performed in public before 1st November 2007.

09. Each song must not exceed (3:30min) 3 minutes 30 seconds in duration.

10. Songs in violation of any copyright not owned by the songwriters will be eliminated

11. The 20 entries reaching the **TELEVISED PHASE** onwards are bound to exclusive promotion and performance on the song contest's related television shows or as advised by the organising committee. Breaching of such agreement will lead to immediate elimination

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12. Songs will be interpreted LIVE in all **judging** phases of the song contest (except when otherwise indicated). Backing vocalists will be pre-recorded in all phases of the song contest.

13. Maximum number of persons on stage: 8 (including the main vocalists).

14. All participants should note that this is a TELEVISION SHOW - A POLISHED PERFORMANCE of the entry (including: vocals, choreography, appearance and props) is highly recommended in all selection stages.

SUBMISSIONS

15. Envelope 'A' should contain 10 copies of the lyrics together with a CD containing the following tracks:

Track 1: The full song

Track 2: The Backing track (with recorded backing vocals)

Track 3: The Instrumental version (no vocals)

16. Envelope 'B' should contain the contact details of the participants together with a detailed biography of the singer/s.

17. Only the title of the song must be written on lyrics and the submitted CD. On CD the title of the song must be written in Black Block Letters. Lyrics or CDs with marks revealing the participants identity will lead to the sudden disqualification of the entry.

18. Deadline for submission of entries: **18th January 2008**. Closing and announcement dates may be changed according to the organisers discretion.

JUDGING PHASES

19. All submitted entries will need to go through the following phases:

PHASE A: The LIVE 'audition' (behind closed doors) - All submitted entries will be performed in front of a panel of judges who will bring the number of entries down to 20 entries. Full *polished* performances are recommended. (8 persons on stage including main vocalists). Date and location to be announced after the submission date.

PHASE B: *To be held between FEBRUARY and MAY 2008.*

The 20 entries (so, 20 different singers) will proceed to the TELEVISED PHASE. Songs will be judged by SMS-voting and JUDGES. Judges will be asked to voice their opinion about the performances from the 5th programme onwards.

4 to 5 different entries will be performed IN FULL every week. A 30-second clip from each entry's refrain will be played every week as a reminder for the SMS-voting. Each week, the SMS-voting standings for all 20 entries will be given.

Prog 01: Songs 1-5 guests (songs performed in full playback).

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Prog 02: Songs 6-10 guests (songs performed in full playback) + SMS-voting standing.

Prog 03: Songs 11-15 guests (songs performed in full playback) + SMS-voting standings.

Prog 04: Songs 16-20 guests (songs performed in full playback) + SMS-voting standings.

Prog 05: Songs 1, 6, 11, 16 guests (LIVE) + Opinion of judges (no votes) + SMS-voting ranks

Prog 06: Songs 2, 7, 12, 17 guests (LIVE) + Opinion of judges (no votes) + SMS-voting ranks

Prog 07: Songs 3, 8, 13, 18 guests (LIVE) + Opinion of judges (no votes) + SMS-voting ranks

Prog 08: Songs 4, 9, 14, 19 guests (LIVE) + Opinion of judges (no votes) + SMS-voting ranks

Prog 09: Songs 5, 10, 15, 20 guests (LIVE) + Opinion of judges (no votes) + SMS-voting ranks

Prog 10: **LIVE Performances** of the 20 songs. Judges will vote. At the end of the show, the TOP-5 entries according to the JUDGES votes will be announced. (Placing/ranking of the TOP-5 entries will NOT be revealed at this point, just titles of songs).

Prog 11: 30-sec clips of all the 20 entries will be aired. Accumulated SMS-voting standings will be announced. The TOP-5 entries according to the SMS VOTING will be announced (Placing/ranking of the TOP-5 entries will NOT be revealed at this point, just titles of songs).

Should any of the SMS TOP-5 entries be in the JUDGES TOP-5 list (as announced in the previous week), the next in line (from the SMS-voting) will proceed to the next step.

Prog 12: Full Playback Performance of the JUDGES TOP-5 entries.

Prog 13: Full Playback Performance of the SMS TOP-5 entries.

Prog 14: **THE SUPER FINAL** with the **LIVE Performances** of the 10 finalists (Judges TOP-5 + SMS TOP-5). The winning entry will be chosen by a 100% professional jury.

20. All TELEVISED phases will be held on ONE TV.

21. Competition Prizes include: A video clip made by ONE TV's artistic team for the winning entry of the SUPER FINAL. Singers, authors and composers of the top-3 places of the SUPER FINAL will be awarded with trophies. A separate trophy will be awarded to the winner of the public opinion (winner of the SMS-voting).

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22. The organisation committee is dealing with other organisations of International song contests for possible participation of the winning song. Further details in due course.

23. All decisions taken by the Malta HIT Song Contest Committee are final and binding and there may be no appeal from such decisions. No reason needs to be given for any decision taken by the Committee. By participating and by entering a song for the Malta Hit Song Contest 2008, each applicant is accepting all these terms and all conditions regulating this participation and is agreeing to be bound by such conditions and regulations. Closing and announcement dates may be changed according to the organisers' discretion. Rules may also be changed according to the organisers' discretion. All applicants undertake to follow all the festival's regulations and the Malta HIT Song Committee's directives. Any breach of same will entail immediate disqualification from participating in any manner in the festival, without any recourse whatsoever.

24. Application forms at the price of €50 each can be bought from ONE COMPLEX (Marsa) between the 15th January and the 17th January 2008 between 09:00 and 17:00. Submission date of entries: 18th January 2008 between 09:00 and 17:00.