

Balloting Information

- **Schedule**



2021

Balloting Schedule

Eligibility Period: May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021

February 28, 2021 Dove Registered Entity Application Cut-Off Deadline for organizations to apply for Dove Registered Entity (DRE) status for 2021 Dove Awards. Applications after this date will not be processed. GMA will notify all applicants of their status by March 31.

April 6, 2021 Dove Registered Entity Submission Active Approved Dove Registered Entities can begin submitting releases and recordings for consideration for 2021 Dove Awards.

April 20, 2021 Dove Registered Entity Entries Due Deadline for approved Dove Registered Entities to submit releases and recordings for consideration for the 2021 Dove Awards. DRE Submissions are due by 11:59 pm CST on this date.

April 23, 2021 Membership Cut-Off for Submitting Entries *Not an approved Dove Registered Entity with the GMA? In order to be eligible to submit releases and recordings for consideration for the 2021 Dove Awards, you must be a professional member of the GMA by this date.

May 11, 2021 Professional Member Submission Process Active Opportunity for professional members of the GMA to submit entries for consideration for the 2021 Dove Awards.

May 18, 2021 Professional Member Entries Due Professional members entries are due by this date. Submission opportunity will close at 11:59 pm CST.

June 1, 2021 Dove Registered Entity Verification Active Listings of all submissions received will be posted for review to make sure all eligible recordings and releases are included.

June 8, 2021 Dove Registered Entity Verification Due Any changes or submissions by Dove Registered Entities are due by 11:59pm CST on this date.

June 15, 2021 Product Screening GMA appointed committees meet to review products, approve category placement, and eligibility of all submissions made, plus add glaring omissions. All approved releases and recordings will appear in their appropriate categories on the first ballot. (Submissions can be moved among genre categories or removed from eligibility.)

July 9, 2021 Membership Cut-Off for Voting on First Ballot In order to be eligible to vote on the first Dove Awards ballot, you must be an active professional member in the GMA database by this date. The first ballot determines nominees.

July 13, 2021 First Ballot Open First Dove Awards ballot is delivered to current GMA professional members for voting via email. All voting takes place online.

July 20, 2021 First Ballot Closes All votes must be cast by 11:59 PM CST on this date in order to be counted.

August 11, 2021 Nominees Announced at Press Conference Press Conference to announce the 2021 Dove Award nominees, as determined by the first ballot. To be held at Lipscomb University.

August 13, 2021 Membership Cut-Off for Voting on Second Ballot In order to be eligible to vote on the second Dove Awards ballot, you must be an active member in the GMA database by this date. The second ballot determines the recipients of the Dove Awards.

August 19, 2021 Second Ballot Open Second Dove Awards ballot is delivered to current GMA members for voting. All voting takes place on-line.

August 26, 2021 Second Ballot Closes All votes must be cast by 11:59 PM CST on this date in order to be counted.

October 19, 2021 52nd Annual GMA Dove Awards Presentation of the 52nd Annual Dove Awards from Allen Arena at Lipscomb University.

ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE



2020-2021

Policies & Procedures Manual

52nd ANNUAL GMA DOVE AWARDS ELIGIBILITY, SUBMISSION & BALLOTING – POLICIES & PROCEDURES

**The mission of the Gospel Music Association is to expose,
promote,
and celebrate the Gospel through music.**

PURPOSE

The Dove Awards help the Gospel Music Association (GMA) accomplish its mission by publicly honoring those persons who have demonstrated excellence or significant accomplishment in the field of Christian/Gospel music.

SUBMITTED ENTRY ELIGIBILITY

All persons who are Professional members of the Gospel Music Association by **APRIL 23, 2021**, or are approved Dove Registered Entities, are entitled to submit entries for consideration for the GMA Dove Awards ballot.

VOTING ELIGIBILITY

All Professional Members of the GMA (*active as of July 9, 2021*) are entitled to vote on the GMA Dove Awards First Ballot.

All Professional Members, All-Access Members & Community Members of the GMA (*active as of August 13, 2021*) are entitled to vote on the GMA Dove Awards Second Ballot.

Professional members are entitled to vote in all GMA Dove Award categories, according to the guidelines specified on the ballot. All-Access Members & Community Members are entitled to vote in five categories of their choosing.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY

The eligibility period, for all award categories, will be 12 months beginning on the 1st day of May, 2020 and ending on the 30th day of April, 2021 prior to the presentation of the awards.

In all categories, except Division I, the GMA must receive each entry from three or more of its Professional Members or one previously approved Dove Registered Entity, for that entry to move forward in the submission/balloting process.

Product must be tracked by SoundScan in the United States (*except for Artist, Producer, Musical, Choral, Video & Film Categories which do not need to be tracked by SoundScan*). Eligibility will be verified with SoundScan. The first recorded scans must fall within the eligibility period, regardless of the release date stated on the entry form or on SoundScan.

From time to time, screening judges may encounter product submissions that raise questions about whether or not the product's content is appropriate for the GMA Dove Awards. To assist the judges in their determination, the GMA Board has authorized the following content criteria for use in these instances:

"For purposes of GMA Dove Award eligibility, the content of all entries will be: based upon the historically orthodox Christian faith contained in or derived from the Holy Bible; or apparently prompted and informed by a Christian world-view."

SUBMISSION/BALLOTING PROCESS

The process for the GMA Dove Awards consists of an online submission form, a review process of submitted product, and two separate online ballots. The content of each will be as follows:

- Online Submission Form – Will contain appropriate instructions and provisions for submitting entries in specified GMA Dove Award categories. The GMA reserves the right:
 1. To disallow entry forms that have insufficient information to verify the entry eligibility and forms for which no contact is readily available. Members submitting entries will not be notified if their entry or entries are ruled ineligible.
 2. To place any entry into the category it deems appropriate and

- to rule on the eligibility of any product.
3. To withdraw any category in any year if the GMA determines there is an insufficient number of eligible entries in that category (less than 10) and, at the GMA's discretion, to place the affected entries in another category.
- First Ballot – Will list, in alphabetical order, the candidates for nomination:
 1. Eligible entries in Division II – IV (*excluding categories: Packaging and Music Video*), receiving three or more Professional GMA member entries or one Dove Registered Entity entry all of which have been confirmed eligible by the Dove Awards Screening Committee.
 2. Song of the Year (*Category 1*) candidates will be derived mathematically using data provided by CCLI, BDS, Nielsen Music Connect and SoundScan.
 3. Songwriter of the Year (*Categories 2 & 3*) candidates will be derived mathematically using data provided by CCLI, BDS, Nielsen Music Connect and SoundScan.
 4. The top 25 eligible entries in the Genre and New Artist (*Categories 4-6 & 9*) receiving three or more professional GMA member entries all of which have been confirmed eligible by the Dove Awards Screening Committee.
 5. Artist of the Year (*Category 7*) candidates will be derived mathematically from CCLI, BDS, Nielsen Music Connect and SoundScan.
 6. Nominees for Producer, Packaging, and Music Video of the Year (*Categories 10; 37-39*) are derived by a Craft committee and entries for this category will not appear on the First Ballot.
 - Nominee Totals – The number of nominees in a category will be determined by the total amount of entries that make it onto the first ballot in that category (with the exception of Song of the Year which will list 10). The scale is as follows:
 1. 15 or more entries = 5 *nominees*
 2. 10-14 entries = 3 *nominees*
 3. Less than 10 entries = *May be withdrawn or combined with nearest category*
 - Second Ballot – Will list, in alphabetical order, the Nominees:
 1. The top entries in each category which received the most votes in that category on the first ballot.

VOTING/TABULATION OF BALLOTS

The GMA utilizes the "Borda Count" to score Dove Awards entries on the first and second ballots. Eligible voting members will rank three (3) entries from 1 to 3, with a rank of 1 being the most favorable. The first choice of each voter receives the highest number of points. Each subsequent choice then gets one less point than the preceding choice. The points from each voter are added together to determine the top candidates from each

category. The Dove Awards balloting software tabulates the final score based on this methodology.

In the event of a tie vote on the first ballot, the number of finalists for that category will be increased in order to include all entries which are tied. In the event of a tie vote on the Second Ballot, both/all recipients receiving the highest number of votes will be awarded a Dove Award.

The number of votes received by any particular nominee will not be disclosed to anyone unless so directed by resolution adopted by a majority of the Board of Directors of GMA.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECIPIENTS

Prior to the announcement of the recipient(s) at the annual GMA Dove Awards presentation, or such other events as may be selected by the Gospel Music Association, the name of the recipient(s) of the Dove Award in any category will be disclosed to persons who, in the president's judgment, require such information in connection with the production and/or broadcast of the GMA Dove Awards presentation.

WHO GETS THE DOVE AWARD?

SONG of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Category 1

Dove Awards are presented to the songwriter(s) and publisher(s). Complimentary Trophies are for all noted above.

ARTIST/NON-ARTIST SONGWRITER of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Categories 2-3

Dove Awards are presented to the songwriter. Complimentary Trophies are for all noted above.

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN/ SOUTHERN GOSPEL/GOSPEL ARTIST of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Categories 4-6

Dove Awards are presented to the artist and record label. Complimentary Trophies are for all noted above.

ARTIST of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Category 7

*Dove Awards are presented to the artist and record label.
Complimentary Trophies are for all noted above.*

NEW ARTIST of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Category 8

*Dove Awards are presented to the artist and record label.
Complimentary Trophies are for all noted above.*

PRODUCER of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Category 9

*Dove Awards are presented to the producer or production team.
Complimentary Trophies are for all noted above.*

RECORDED SONG of the YEAR

DIVISION II / Categories 10–20

*Dove Awards are presented to the artist, featured artist(s) and songwriter(s).
Complimentary Trophies are for all noted above.*

ALBUM of the YEAR

DIVISION III / Categories 21–31

*Dove Awards are presented to the artist (if prominent on the album) and the producer(s).
Complimentary Trophies are for the artist and the producers with 51%+ participation.*

ALBUM of the YEAR

DIVISION IV / Category 32–33

*Dove Awards are presented to the artist (if prominent on the album) and producer(s).
Complimentary Trophies are for the artist and the producers with 51%+ participation.*

MUSICAL/CHORAL COLLECTION of the YEAR

DIVISION IV / Categories 34–35

*Dove Awards are presented to the creator(s), arranger(s), and orchestrator(s).
Complimentary Trophies are for all noted above with 51%+ participation.*

RECORDED MUSIC PACKAGING of the YEAR

DIVISION V / Category 36

Dove Awards are presented to the art director(s), graphic artist(s), illustrator(s), and photographer(s).

Complimentary Trophies are for all noted above.

SHORT FORM/LONG FORM MUSIC VIDEO of the YEAR

DIVISION V / Categories 37-38

Dove Awards are presented to the artist, featured artist(s), director(s), and producer(s).

Complimentary Trophies are for all noted above.

INSPIRATIONAL FILM of the YEAR

DIVISION V / Category 39

Dove Awards are presented to the director(s) and producer(s).

Complimentary Trophies are for all noted above.

52nd Annual GMA Dove Awards Categories

Category # / Category

Division I

1. Song of the Year
2. Songwriter of the Year (Artist)
3. Songwriter of the Year (Non-Artist)
4. Contemporary Christian Artist of the Year
5. Southern Gospel Artist of the Year
6. Gospel Artist of the Year Category
7. Artist of the Year
8. New Artist of the Year
9. Producer of the Year

Division II

10. Rap/Hip Hop Recorded Song of the Year
11. Rock/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year
12. Pop/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year
13. Inspirational Recorded Song of the Year
14. Southern Gospel Recorded Song of the Year
15. Bluegrass/Country/Roots Recorded Song of the Year
16. Contemporary Gospel Recorded Song of the Year
17. Traditional Gospel Recorded Song of the Year
18. Gospel Worship Recorded Song of the Year
19. Spanish Language Recorded Song of the Year
20. Worship Recorded Song Of The Year

Division III

21. Rap/Hip Hop Album of the Year
22. Rock/Contemporary Album of the Year
23. Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year
24. Inspirational Album of the Year
25. Southern Gospel Album of the Year
26. Bluegrass/Country/Roots Album of the Year
27. Contemporary Gospel Album of the Year
28. Traditional Gospel Album of the Year
29. Gospel Worship Album of the Year
30. Spanish Language Album of the Year
31. Worship Album of the Year

Division IV

32. Children's Album of the Year
33. Christmas/Special Event Album of the Year
34. Musical of the Year
35. Choral Collection of the Year

Division V

36. Recorded Music Packaging of the Year
37. Short Form Music Video
38. Long Form Music Video
39. Inspirational Film of the Year

Contact us at dove@gospelmusic.org.

• Rules & Definitions



2020-2021

Rules & Definitions

Eligibility Period: May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021

SONG of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Category 1

Rules and Definitions: Candidates for Song of the Year will be

determined using data provided by *CCLI*, *BDS*, *Nielsen Music Connect* and *SoundScan* to calculate the most impressions/audience impact across a songwriter's body of work based on sales, airplay and church performance during the eligibility period.

A song is ineligible for Song of the Year if it has been in the top 10 nominated songs the past two consecutive years or won the previous year.

This category will not appear on the first ballot. A craft committee composed of music publishers, producers, radio experts, and label representatives across the CCM, Southern Gospel and Gospel genres will be selected to review the final 10 nominees to ensure qualitative (the character of the music) and quantitative (the number of impacting single) credibility of the outcome. Final nominees will be submitted for voting on the final ballot only.

Dove Awards are presented to the songwriter(s) and publisher(s).

ARTIST/NON-ARTIST

SONGWRITER of the YEAR

DIVISION I / Categories 2-3

Rules and Definitions: The Songwriter of the Year categories will be determined using data provided by *CCLI*, *BDS*, *Nielsen Music Connect* and *SoundScan* to calculate the most impressions/audience impact across a songwriter's body of work based on sales, airplay and church performance during the eligibility period.

This category will not appear on the first ballot. A craft committee composed of music publishers, producers, radio experts, and label representatives across the CCM, Southern Gospel and Gospel genres will be selected to review the final five nominees to ensure qualitative (the character of the music) and quantitative (the number of impacting single) credibility of the outcome. Final nominees will be submitted for voting on the final ballot only.

Category 2 Songwriter (Artist) – A songwriter who is actively recording their own material and came to prominence as a performer.

Category 3 Songwriter (Non-Artist) – A songwriter who came to prominence as a non-performing songwriter.

Dove Awards are presented to the songwriter.

**CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN/ SOUTHERN GOSPEL/GOSPEL
ARTIST of the YEAR
DIVISION I / Categories 4-6**

Rules and Definitions: An artist is a soloist or group whose preponderance of music performances and recordings are in Christian/Gospel music. Submitted artists must meet the following criteria:

1. Eligible artists must have attained prominence as demonstrated by consumption, radio and touring.
2. Minimum of one single must be released during the current eligibility period.
3. An artist may be submitted a maximum of one time by a GMA professional member.
4. The 25 artists receiving the most entries will appear on the first ballot.

Category 4 Contemporary Christian Artist – A soloist or group in the Contemporary Christian genre whose preponderance of music performances and recordings are in Christian/Gospel music. *(Includes: Pop/Contemporary, Inspirational, Rock, Worship, Rap/Hip Hop)*

Category 5 Southern Gospel Artist – A soloist or group in the Southern Gospel genre whose preponderance of music performances and recordings are in Christian/Gospel music. *(Includes: Southern Gospel, Bluegrass, Country)*

Category 6 Gospel Artist – A soloist or group in the Gospel genre whose preponderance of music performances and recordings are in Christian/Gospel music. *(Includes: Traditional, Contemporary/Gospel)*

Dove Awards are presented to the artist and record label.

**ARTIST of the YEAR
DIVISION I / Category 7**

Rules and Definitions: An artist is a soloist or group whose preponderance of music performances and recordings are in Christian/Gospel music. The top 20 artists determined by Nielsen Music Connect will appear as eligible entries on the first ballot.

1. The top 20 will be determined as the top selling artists (based on consumption) of up to two albums released within the last three years.
2. At least one single must have been released during the current eligibility period.

3. Prior to the first ballot, a craft committee will review all entries to identify any egregious omissions.

Dove Awards are presented to the artist and record label.

NEW ARTIST of the YEAR
DIVISION I / Category 8

Rules and Definitions: A new artist is a soloist or group whose first album (or minimum of five singles) to attain a breakthrough or prominence in this configuration was released for general distribution within the last two eligibility periods and who has not previously been a nominee within this category. Screening Committee will determine when the artist attained prominence by examining consumption, radio and touring.

A preponderance of the artist's music performances and recordings:

1. Must be in Christian/Gospel music.
2. Must be in the configuration (soloist or group) in which the artist is entered in the submission process
3. The 25 artists receiving the most entries will appear on the first ballot

Dove Awards are presented to the artist and record label.

PRODUCER of the YEAR
DIVISION I / Category 9

Rules and Definitions: In consideration of impact across a producer's body of work, individuals must have produced or co-produced at least six recorded songs on product eligible in the current year's Album of the Year categories. Recorded songs where the entrant is considered the artist do not qualify for this category.

1. To be eligible as a Production Team, the exact configuration of team members must have produced all eligible songs.
2. Any song on which any member of the Production Team is also an artist cannot be counted as an eligible song.

This category will not appear on the first ballot. Final nominees will be determined by a craft committee and will be submitted for voting on the final ballot only.

Dove Awards are presented to the producer or production team.

RECORDED SONG of the YEAR

DIVISION II / Categories 10–20

Rules and Definitions: This division takes into consideration the performance/production of a recorded song, as well as the writing. Submitted songs must meet the following criteria:

1. Its first week of sales recorded by SoundScan must fall within the eligibility period or,
2. It may be released during the eligibility period as a national promotional release for radio airplay (in which case the release date of the single must be listed).
3. Any previous nominee in any Song of the Year category is ineligible.
4. Entering a song in more than one category in Division II will invalidate that entry in both categories.
5. Lyrics and vocals are required in order to determine Christian worldview.

Category 19 Spanish Language Recorded Song – A song must contain at least 51% lyrics in Spanish to be eligible. Translations and artists outside the Spanish Language platform will be eligible.

Dove Awards are presented to the artist, featured artist(s) and songwriter(s).

ALBUM of the YEAR

DIVISION III / Categories 21-31

Rules and Definitions: An album is defined as a collection of five or more songs in any recorded form other than video. Submitted albums must meet the following criteria:

1. Its first week of sales recorded by SoundScan must fall within the eligibility period.
2. A preponderance of the tracks on the album must fit in the musical style of the category entered.
3. Must have a minimum of five previously unreleased recorded performances.
4. Entering an album in more than one category in Division III and Division IV will invalidate the entry in both divisions.

Category 30 Spanish Language Album – An album must contain at least 51% tracks in Spanish to be eligible. Translations and artists outside the Spanish Language platform will be eligible.

Dove Awards are presented to the artist (if prominent on the album) and the producer(s).

ALBUM of the YEAR

DIVISION IV / Category 32-33

Rules and Definitions: An album is defined as a collection of five or more songs in any recorded form other than video. Submitted albums must meet the following criteria:

1. Its first week of sales recorded by SoundScan must fall within the eligibility period.
2. A preponderance of the tracks on the album must fit in the musical style of the category entered.
3. Must have a minimum of five previously unreleased recorded performances.
4. Entering an album in more than one category in Division III and Division IV will invalidate the entry in both divisions.

Category 32 Children's Album – Children's Albums contain music especially produced and totally designed for children's listening or performing.

Category 33 Christmas/Special Event Album – Special Event Albums are all albums on which no single artist or group are featured on more than 50% of the recorded performances. A Christmas Album is defined as an album with a preponderance of the recorded material related to Christmas.

Dove Awards are presented to the artist (if prominent on the album) and producer(s).

MUSICAL/

CHORAL COLLECTION of the YEAR

DIVISION IV / Categories 34-35

Rules and Definitions: This division takes into consideration works used in the church for music based performances by members and/ or choir. Submitted musicals and collections must meet the following criteria:

1. Entering a Musical or Collection in more than one category in Division IV will invalidate the entry in both categories.
2. Musicals or collections DO NOT have to be tracked by SoundScan. □

Category 34 Musical – Works with a conceptual theme and intended for performance in its entirety. Includes cantatas, oratorios, and masses; does not include choral collections or children's musicals.

Category 35 Choral Collection – Music arranged for choir in

multiple parts. Cannot contain storyline.

Dove Awards are presented to the creator(s), arranger(s), and orchestrator(s).

RECORDED MUSIC PACKAGING of the YEAR
DIVISION V / Category 36

Rules and Definitions: Recorded Music Packaging recognizes package design, photography and/or graphic art for both physical and digital-only releases of CD, DVD and other music packaging formats.

This category will not appear on the first ballot. Final nominees will be determined by a craft committee and will be submitted for voting on the final ballot only.

Dove Awards are presented to the art director(s), graphic artist(s), illustrator(s), and photographer(s).

SHORT FORM/LONG FORM
MUSIC VIDEO of the YEAR
DIVISION V / Categories 37-38

Category 37 Short Form Music Video – A video or film product designed to present a single complete song or medley. Music video content is defined as the combination of music and video performances. Significant changes in either constitute a new music video. Submitted Short Form Music Videos must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a concept music video, not a performance video.
2. Must be a legally created video product that is in promotion of an eligible product or song.

This category will not appear on the first ballot. Final nominees will be determined by a craft committee and will be submitted for voting on the final ballot only.

Category 39 Long Form Music Video – A video or film product designed to present more than one complete song or medley. Music video content is defined as the combination of music and video performance. Significant changes in either constitute a new music video.

Ineligible for Long Form Music Video are: Video samplers, television programs used only for broadcast, videos in which gospel songs form less than half of the content and videos in

which more than half of the content was eligible in any previous video eligibility period.

This category will not appear on the first ballot. Final nominees will be determined by a craft committee and will be submitted for voting on the final ballot only.

Dove Awards are presented to the artist, featured artist(s), director(s), and producer(s).

INSPIRATIONAL FILM of the YEAR

DIVISION V / Category 39

Rules and Definitions: Inspirational Film content must be consistent with the worldview outlined in the Policy and Procedures manual. Submitted Inspirational Films must meet the following criteria:

1. Entries must have been released through either television or theaters.
2. Initial release, or Nielsen SoundScan sales in the US Christian Retail market, during the eligibility period.
3. Must be a feature length narrative film, mini-series and/or documentary 88 minutes or longer.

Ineligible for Inspirational Films are: Shorts, music, preaching or teaching videos, or films in which more than half of the content was eligible in any previous eligibility period.

Dove Awards are presented to the director(s) and producer(s).

Contact us at dove@gospelmusic.org.