**Rules and Regulations**

1. Only original songs may be submitted.  Entries cannot infringe on any copyrights or other third party rights.
2. Entries may have multiple co-writers; however each contestant, upon entering, guarantees that they have the absolute right to enter (including approval from non-contestant co-writers).  By entering, the contestant agrees to indemnify and hold The Alchemy Songwriting Competition and its sponsors harmless from and against any claims inconsistent with the aforementioned.
3. Contestants may submit as many songs as they wish; however, each song entry must have its own completed entry form and payment.
4. All prizes will be awarded to the first name as it appears on the entry form, and division of prizes among co-authors is the responsibility of winners.  The Alchemy Songwriting Competition does not give feedback or critique on this matter.
5. By entering The Alchemy Songwriting Competition, contestants and/or their legal guardian (if contestant is a minor) agree to accept the decisions of The Alchemy Songwriting Competition and its judges, which are final and binding in all matters.  Contestant agrees to be bound by all terms of these official The Alchemy Songwriting Competition rules and regulations as established herein.
6. All applicants must be 13 years of age as of the last date of this year’s submission period, and must accurately represent your age when entering your age category.  Submissions with multiple songwriters will average the ages of those involved and use that age.
7. This songwriting competition is open to all songwriters regardless of race, gender, religion, national, or ethnic origin.  These factors will have no affect on the decisions of the judges or in distribution of awards.
8. If there is a problem with your recording, entry, or payment, we will make the best effort to contact you via the email address or telephone number provided on your entry.  Failure to respond and resubmit the requested information will result in disqualification and forfeiture of your entry.
9. If an entrant’s check bounces or payment does not go through he or she will have 3 days from notification to resubmit funds or he/she will be disqualified.
10. There are no restrictions in submitted content; however, if chosen as a top 10 finalist, age category winner, or genre winner, you may be asked to edit your song for the purposes of The Alchemy Songwriting Showcase.
11. The Alchemy Songwriting Competition reserves the right to ban and/or disqualify entrants who exhibit harassing, abusive, or rude behavior to contest staff, judges, contestants, or sponsors.
12. After the judges have decided on a final top 10, competition staff will notify the entrants.  At that time they will be given all pertinent information regarding The Alchemy Songwriting Showcase, including sound check and concert check-in times.  Failure to adhere to the given schedule could result in your disqualification from the competition.
13. Each finalist will be notified by email or phone and will be required to sign an affidavit confirming that the submitted song is original and he/she/they hold(s) rights to the song.  Failure to sign and return the form within the required time period or provision of false information will result in disqualification and an alternate finalist will be selected.
14. The top 10 finalists are responsible for their own travel arrangements to The Alchemy Songwriting Showcase but may contact Competition staff for local hotel and restaurant suggestions.
15. In the event of bad weather, the Alchemy Showcase will go on as scheduled unless it is absolutely impossible or entirely unsafe for judges, finalists, and audience members to travel.
16. Due to the fundraising nature of the Alchemy Showcase event, no refunds for tickets will be given, regardless of weather, cancellations, or other unforeseen circumstances.
17. This competition reserves the right to advertise, play, and use your submitted songs for up to 18 months after the end of the Alchemy Showcase, including on but not limited to the Alchemy website and Alchemy Finalist CDs.
18. By signing the entry form, you agree to release the rights to any photographs and/or video taken during this event by The Alchemy Songwriting Competition or Blackbird Academy of Arts, Inc. and give your consent for such media to be used in advertising and/or displays by The Alchemy Songwriting Competition and Blackbird Academy of Arts, Inc.