



“ON ONE A-CHORD” – Healing Illinois through Music

SONGWRITING CONTEST RULES

Background:” Healing Illinois is a racial healing initiative of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), in partnership with the Field Foundation, designed to support organizations across the state to begin, or continue, the work of racial healing.

Healing Illinois strives to:

- Build Knowledge and understanding of racial healing and racial equity in communities across the state;
- Strengthen trust and relationship building among the residents of Illinois;
- Expand opportunities for communities and individuals to begin to heal from the harms caused by racism;
- Increase awareness and media engagement focused on racial healing and equity.”
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Source: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=126503>

Eligibility:

- Must be a resident or collaborate with a resident of Illinois*
- Age 16 or older, professional or amateur
- All genres are welcomed and encouraged, blues, jazz gospel, Christian, inspirational, hip-hop, rock, pop, indie . . .
- Works must be original, unpublished (or self-published) songs that have been written or co-written by the entrant(s)
- Collaborations are encouraged, but not required.

Submission Guidelines: Entry deadline Friday, April 12, 2024

TO: info@legacytrain23@gmail.com

- Must be an original work
- Submit a 2/12 to 5 minute video (max), and lyric sheet
- May submit multiple works

Prizes: Grand prize of \$1,000 and a performance opportunity; Second place will receive \$500; The top ten will be offered a paid performance opportunity.

Theme: (see background and accompanying resource sheet)

Judging Criteria/Panel:

- Creativity and Originality: How unique and innovative is the song?
- Lyricism: Are the lyrics well-crafted, meaningful, and memorable?
- Melody/Harmony: Is the musical composition engaging and well-executed?
- Overall Impact: Does the song evoke emotion or leave a lasting impression?
- Adherence to Theme (if applicable): How well does the song fit the specified theme?

Judging will be conducted by a panel of industry professionals led by Emmy and Grammy award winner, international recording artist, vocalist and songwriter, Howard Hewett. Hewett is the the male vocal lead in Shalamar. The group gave the world feel-good dance favorites, “The Second Time Around” “A Night to Remember, the R and B classic, “For the Lover in You” as well as the Grammy-winning, “Don’t Get Stopped in Beverly Hills.” He has enjoyed tremendous success as a solo artist as well selling millions of records. He continues to tour nationally and internationally.

Announcement of Winners: Winners will be notified by email and must sign and return an affidavit of eligibility/recording rights/publicity release within 14 days of notification date. The affidavit will state that the winner’s song is an original work and that the writer or writers holds all rights to the song. Failure to sign and return such affidavit within 14 days or providing false/inaccurate information therein will result in immediate disqualification and an alternate winner will be selected.

IMPORTANT: Performance opportunity as part of the On One Accord Concert to be held on May 24, 2024, 7 p.m. at the Marion Civic Center, 800 Tower Square Plaza, Marion, Illinois

For more information: email legacytrain23@gmail.com or call 618-202-9717