

24th Annual ICM Faith, Family & Country™ Awards Voting Process
April 4, 2019
The Grand Ole Opry

ICM AWARDS VOTING PROCESS:
(New rules and protocol highlighted for reference.)

- **NEW:** This year, there will only be 2 rounds of voting. The first ballot will go to professional members, media and radio. That will determine our top 10. The second and final round will determine the winner. We will honor the artists who made the top five during the awards ceremony. However, this information **WILL NOT** be released in advance. As a result of these changes, fans will be eligible to vote in ten categories of their choosing on the final ballot.
- ALL voting will be done online. You must have a valid email address on file in order to vote. This goes for all professional members, radio, and fan subscribers. The same email address may not be used twice. So, if you don't have an email, check with family members or friends who might be able to assist you in this process. To confirm that you have the correct email on file, contact Amber Abendroth amber@ascendmusicandmedia.com or Mandy Hall at mandy@ascendmusicandmedia.com.
- We have prayed long and hard about how to bring more credibility to this genre. This year we will continue to implement the tiered point system: Radio, Professional Members and Fan Members.
- We will have an industry panel (non-employee) who will be brought in on the final round of voting. They will be at the top of the tier. This panel consist of a mixture of industry professionals unfamiliar with our genre, as well as a few that are. We have chosen carefully so that their voting will be both professional and unbiased. The panelists will review each artist/song/video thoroughly before casting their vote. The panelists will be announced and honored the night of the awards show. Panelists may not participate more than once.

**The panel will not vote in the following categories: Living Legend/Pioneer, Musician, Comedian, Radio Station or Radio Personality.*

****Top ten nominees may be asked to provide last year's dates in some categories, along with additional material for the panel's review. Additional information requested could include links to live performances, top charting positions, songs etc.**

Round 1: *This is a blank ballot which determines the Top 10 nominees.*

Schedule: Emailed January 11, 2019 / Deadline: February 1, 2019

Who Votes? Professional members of the Inspirational Country Music Association®, media, and radio members. These include musicians, songwriters, artists, ministers, managers, publicity agents, producers, etc. Our radio members are not paid subscribers. The membership is a benefit for their support and hard work in the genre of Inspirational Country music. Professional and media members are eligible to vote in **all rounds and all categories** of the awards process. This helps to keep the integrity of the voting process and ensure that only deserving nominees make the initial ballot.

Round 2: *This ballot contains the Top 10 Nominees and determines our Winner. (We will honor the top five the night of the awards ceremony.)*

Schedule: Emailed February 12, 2019 / Deadline: March 1, 2019

Who Votes? Industry Panel, Radio & Professional Members vote in all categories. Fan Members are eligible to vote in 10 categories of their choosing.

2018 Categories:

The ICM Faith, Family & Country Awards® will have 18 categories. The eligibility period for this year's award show is **January 2018 – December 2018**. Please note all categories with an * must fit within that timeline, whether referring to charts, release dates, recordings or new songs written.

Entertainer of the Year:

Award is based on the best individual live performances, recording, staging, public acceptance, attitude, leadership, and most importantly their overall contribution to Inspirational/Christian Country music, by furthering the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

***Male Vocalist**

Award is based on individual performance on charts, records and personal appearances.

***Female Vocalist**

Award is based on individual performance on charts, records and personal appearances.

***Vocal Duo or Performance of the Year**

Award is based on the performance of the duo as a unit on charts, records and personal appearances.

***Vocal Group/Band**

Award is based on the performance of the group on charts, records and personal appearances.

***Inspirational Country Song of the Year**

Single released solely to Inspirational Country radio by a Christian Country artist/ministry. Award goes to artist.

***Songwriter**

Songwriter who best exemplifies the Inspirational Country Music field. Award will go to writer. Songwriter must have written a new song during the eligibility period that achieved success on Inspirational Country charts.

***New Artist:**

Award will go to the artist, whether individual or a group of two or more, who for the first time, demonstrated the most creative growth in the field of Inspirational Country Music. If the artist has won this award or has been previously nominated in this category, they are no longer eligible.

***Musician**

Award is for a musician known as an instrumentalist. The musician must have played on at least one album or single that has appeared in the charts nationally. Award goes to musician.

Comedy Act

Award is for the best uplifting, Christian, or Inspirational Comedy Act.

Radio Personality

Award is for a radio personality who you feel best represents Inspirational/Christian Country music including radio and syndicated programs.

Radio Station

Nominations are open to licensed broadcast stations and internet radio stations in North America. Station must devote at least a portion of their weekly programming to Inspirational, Christian Country or Positive music.

***Video of the Year**

Award is for a Video Performance by an artist that contains an uplifting Inspirational message, given to artist and director. The video must be released during the eligibility period.

Pioneer/Living Legend Award *This award can only be received once.*

Award is given to someone who has contributed years of great success to Gospel music and helped pave the way for Inspirational Country Music. Once the recipient has received this award, he or she is ineligible. Please visit InspirationalCountryMusic.com for a list of previous winners.

Inspirational Bluegrass Artist

Award is given to the artist/band that best uses the Bluegrass genre in an Inspirational form.

Youth in Music Award

Award is given to artist or group (Must be under 16 years of age) who has shown dedication to further the Gospel through the medium of Inspirational Country music.

Music Evangelist

Award is given to group or artist who has shown total commitment to changing lives through their ministry. They have dedicated their lives to full time ministry by spreading the message of Jesus Christ through song, missions and through God's Holy Word.

***Producer of the Year**

Award is given to producer who has supported the genre by producing professional albums or singles that have been released to the Inspirational Country. Award is also based on the performance of these recordings on charts during the eligibility period.