

Indian Summer Music Awards (ISMA) Competitive Categories and Category Definitions

General Eligibility Criteria	<p>With the exception of the Native Spirit category, all solo entrants and at least one member of any group entrant must be enrolled in an American Indian Tribe or be of First Nation descent.</p> <p>First Nation descent is defined as having one or more ancestors indigenous to the Americas. Proof of tribal enrollment or First Nation descent may be requested.</p> <p>All entries must be commercially available releases. The Release Eligibility Period for the competition is 01-Mar of the previous calendar year to 28-Feb of the competition year. Full length CDs, EPs, and Singles are eligible. Non-commercial recordings, DEMOs, tapes, or any recordings released outside the eligibility period are not eligible.</p> <p>ISMA reserves the right to disqualify or reject any entry in any category which contains explicit or offensive lyrics. Entries with explicit or offensive lyrics will not be judged under any circumstance.</p>
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Cat No.	Category	Description
1	Blues	For newly recorded material encompassing traditional or contemporary blues performances with vocals. Vocal components may be male, female, solo, duo, or group. Awarded for a single track only.
2	Central and South American Indigenous Music	For newly recorded performances by an individual or group. Recording may be either vocal or instrumental and shall be of the style typified by music indigenous to Mexico, Central or South America, or the Caribbean. Awarded for a single track only. Note that entries in this category may include material typically classified as Tejano, Norteño, and Banda music. This category is intended to include a wide variety of songs including, but not limited to: mariachi, rancheras, corridos, cumbias, baladas, and boleros.
3	Country	For newly recorded traditional or contemporary country performances with vocals. Vocal components may be male, female, solo, duo, or group. Awarded for a single track only.
4	Folk	For newly recorded material encompassing traditional or contemporary folk performances with vocals. Vocal components may be male, female, solo, duo, or group. Awarded for a single track only.
5	Hip Hop	For newly recorded hip hop, urban, or rap material with vocals. Vocal components may be male, female, solo, duo, or group. Awarded for a single track only. ISMA will not accept entries containing explicit or offensive lyrics.
6	Instrumental (Contemporary / Modern)	For newly recorded instrumental performances by an individual or group, of any contemporary or modern style. Performances may not include spoken word or lyrics. Awarded for a single track only. Original entries may be judged on composition as well as technical performance.
7	Instrumental (Classical or Traditional)	For newly recorded instrumental performances by an individual or group, of any classical or traditional style including but not limited to classical, traditional jazz, traditional country, bluegrass, or any other similar style. Awarded for a single track only. Original entries may be judged on composition as well as technical performance. This category should <u>not</u> include material categorized as Traditional Native American DRUM, FLUTE, or VOCALS.
8	Native American Flute	For newly recorded traditional or contemporary Native American flute performances by an individual or group. Awarded for a single track only.
9	Native Spirit (Non-Native)	For newly recorded vocal or instrumental performances of any style or genre that convey a ' <i>spirit of Native American music</i> ' and are performed by non-native individuals, groups, or ensembles. This category is open to non-native entrants only. Awarded for a single track only.
10	Pop	For newly recorded pop songs with vocals. Vocal components may be male, female, solo, duo, or group. Awarded for a single track only.
11	Rock	For newly recorded material including rock, hard rock, metal, or alternative rock performances with vocals. Vocal components may be male, female, solo, duo, or group. Awarded for a single track only.
12	Spiritual	For newly recorded spiritual or gospel material with vocals. Vocal components may be male, female, solo, duo, or group. Awarded for a single track only.
13	Spoken Word	For newly recorded material containing non-musical recordings, poetry & storytelling performances and/or narration with or without musical collaboration or accompaniment. Awarded for single track only.
14	Traditional Native American Drum	For newly recorded traditional Native American drum performances by a drum group. Awarded for a single track only.
15	Traditional Native American Vocal	For newly recorded traditional Native American vocal performances by an individual or group. Awarded for a single track only.