

2020 IWMA Awards of Excellence Nominations

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR MUSIC AWARDS:

- Albums can be self-nominated. IF YOU ARE SELF-NOMINATING, please provide the following: A copy of the nominated album must accompany the Western Album or Cowboy/Western Swing of the Year nomination, a copy of the album containing a nominated song, or an album containing only the nominated song must accompany the Song of the Year nomination. Song nomination albums must be accompanied by either album artwork or a photocopy of the artwork showing the release date.
- In the case of Western Album of the Year and Cowboy/Western Swing Album of the Year, 75% of the music on the album must be of Western in content, lyrically or musically. Country Music content does not count as Western Music.
- Albums must have a release date and bar code.
- Any individual whose body of work meets criteria may be nominated for IWMA awards. Forms are made available to all members and may be provided to non-members by request. Current IWMA membership is required for voting.
- Albums and songs will all have a "birth" date of January 1 of the release year and will be eligible that year and one subsequent year (January 1, 2019 through September 1, 2020).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR POETRY AWARDS:

COWBOY POETRY CD of THE YEAR

REQUIREMENTS

- Albums may be self-nominated. If you are self-nominating, a copy of the nominated album must be submitted with the nomination.
- Albums must have a release date.
- Albums must have a bar code.
- Non-IWMA authors may be nominated. They will be notified that they have been nominated and be given a chance to become a member to win the award. At that time, they can choose to become a member or decline the nomination and lose eligibility.
- All albums will have a "birth date" of January 1 of the release year and will be eligible that year plus one subsequent year (Example: January 1, 2019 through September 1, 2020).
- Poems written in free verse or blank verse are not eligible.
- 75% of the album tracks must be Cowboy Poetry, written and recited by a single person; the reciter must be the principal author of the poetry. The poetry must be the original work of the reciter, written in rhythm, rhyme and meter.
- 25% of the album tracks may contain other material including:
 - Western Music, pre-recorded or live,
 - Prose, including short stories or spoken introductions,
 - Material written by someone other than the collaborators,
 - Poetry recited by someone other than the principal author, including poetry written by the principal author.
- Collaboration in writing is permitted. In the event a poem is written by the collaboration of two or more persons, one of the collaborators must be named as the "principal" author. The other collaborators will be regarded as co-authors. Editors are considered collaborators.
- Collaboration in reciting is not eligible. Any poetry tracks that are recited by other than the principal author, regardless of authorship of the poem, will not count toward the 75% Cowboy Poetry requirement.

BACKGROUND MUSIC

- Background music performed for the poetry album is permitted. Music need not be original.
- Background music must be Western.
- Background music imported from an external source (CD, radio, etc.) is permitted. Such music must be properly licensed for inclusion in the poetry album.

COWBOY POETRY BOOK of THE YEAR

Poetry is defined as works containing rhyme and meter. Although the book's content may include short prose and free verse, the poetry alone will be judged in meeting criteria for eligibility. Anything that is not poetry as hereby described, including free verse, will be classified as prose.

- 50% of the book must be "poetry" with rhyme and meter and must be original work written by the author of the book.
- 50% of those poems (criteria #1) must be 20 lines or more in length.
- Credits for poems used as a "cover" and poems written by someone other than the author of the book (including anonymous works) must be given. Poems not written by the author of the book will be considered "prose" and will not qualify for the 50% eligibility criteria as described above.
- Books written by multiple authors are not eligible.
- All books will have a "birth" date of January 1 of the copyright year. Eligibility is for that year, plus two subsequent years.
- Non-IWMA authors may be nominated. They will be notified that they have been nominated and be given a chance to become a member to win the award. At that time, they can choose to become a member or decline the nomination and lose eligibility.
- A reprint of a book published in a previous award year is not eligible.

**IWMA Awards of Excellence
2020 NOMINATIONS BALLOT**

WESTERN ALBUM OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) albums. *Award for an outstanding recorded performance by an artist or artists released during the specified time period. The award recognizes the featured artist(s) and producer **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.***

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

COWBOY SWING ALBUM OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) albums. *This award is for an outstanding cowboy swing recorded performance which was either commercially released or showed significant chart action during the eligibility period. The award recognizes the featured artist(s) and the producer. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.***

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

SONG OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) songs. *This award is for any song which was released or showed significant chart action within the eligibility period. **The award recognizes the songwriter(s). This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.***

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

WORKING COWBOY SONG OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) songs. *This award goes to a song recorded within the eligibility period that speaks expressly and clearly to real, authentic working cowboy life, historic or current. The award goes to the songwriter(s) and is based on lyrics, not performance. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.***

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

INSTRUMENTALIST OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) instrumentalists. *This award is for the instrumental artist who has shown an extraordinary mastery of his/her instrument(s) on recorded and/or in-person performance during the specified time period. The award recognizes the artist.*

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

MALE PERFORMER OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) male performers. *Award for the outstanding male vocalist based on recorded and in-person performance. The award recognizes the artist.*

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

FEMALE PERFORMER OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) female performers. *Award for the outstanding female vocalist based on recorded and in-person performance. The award recognizes the artist.*

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

DUO or GROUP OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) duos or groups. Award for a group or duo who regularly performs together that has shown outstanding recorded and in-person performance vocally. The award recognizes the performing group or duo for their excellence.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) entertainers. This award is for the performing act who displayed the greatest competence in all aspects of the entertainment field. Consideration will be given to recorded and in-person performance, public acceptance, attitude, leadership, entertainment value of performances, and over-all contributions to the western music image. The award recognizes the entertainer or group.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) songwriters. Award for outstanding songs written in the past year by a songwriter(s). Commercial release and number of songs recorded during the year are to be considered. The award recognizes the songwriter(s). **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

LIZ MASTERSON CRESCENDO AWARD Nominate up to three (3) individuals or groups. This award is for a group or individual, under 21, having made considerable advances artistically and/or commercially during the eligibility period. The band or individual should be performing under its/his/her name on a regular basis. The award recognizes the group or individual artist.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

RADIO DJ/RADIO PROGRAM OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) radio DJs/radio programs. This award recognizes outstanding service to western music in the field of broadcasting. The recipient will be judged for contributions to the field western music, professionalism, work and involvement in the western music community, and promotion and fostering of the western music image. **In 2020, this is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

COWBOY POETRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) albums. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding achievement on writing, reciting and recording original Cowboy Poetry. The award recognizes the poet. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

COWBOY POETRY BOOK OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) books. The award recognizes the author. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

MALE POET OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) male poets. This award is for the person who exhibits the ability to write original Cowboy/Western poetry or verse, who writes or expresses himself with imaginative power and beauty of thought, language and form. He performs original work but may occasionally perform the work of others to live audiences who showing the ability to enable audiences to develop a deeper understanding and appreciate of the Western lifestyle and history (with accuracy) through his performance.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

FEMALE POET OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) female poets. This award is for the person who exhibits the ability to write original Cowboy/Western poetry or verse, who writes or expresses herself with imaginative power and beauty of thought, language and form. She performs original work but may occasionally perform the work of others to live audiences who showing the ability to enable audiences to develop a deeper understanding and appreciate of the Western lifestyle and history (with accuracy) through her performance.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

Member Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

**Ballot must be postmarked or emailed on or before September 5, 2020 to be counted:
IWMA Awards, PO Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019 or info@westernmusic.org**