



2026 Song Writing Competition

Do you have a passion for music and enjoy writing and/or performing your original music?

The Optimist Club of Chilliwack is hosting a song writing competition for students aged 18 or younger who are in grades 7 to 12 exclusively. First prize is \$500! Second prize is \$300 and third prize is \$200. There will be up to seven honourable mention prizes of \$50 each.

In keeping with the Optimist Club philosophy, we encourage contestants to write songs that will uplift and inspire, performing in any genre that speaks to you! Country – Folk – Rock – Electronic etc.

General Rules and Guidelines

Eligibility & Registration

Registration Requirements (to be sent in an email to optimistclubofchwk@gmail.com to include the primary contact's name even if there will be more than one person performing.

Subject: SONG WRITING CONTEST

Name:

School:

Grade:

Birthdate:

Address:

Phone and email:

- Eligible participants must be 18 or younger, grades 7 - 12 exclusively to participate.
- Eligible participants may collaborate to write and perform their song and will share prize amount.
- All candidates must pre-register by submitting their registration information online to: Optimist Club of Chilliwack optimistclubofchwk@gmail.com - you will be notified by email and a phone call if you are one of the first 10 contestants to qualify. Please put **SONG WRITING CONTEST** in the subject line.
- The first 10 contestants to submit their entry via email to optimistclubofchwk@gmail.com will be competing during the event held on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at:
Cheam Lions Club Hall
45580 Spadina Avenue
Contestant Arrive - 6:30 to set up and to determine the order of performance.
Contest starts at 7:00 pm sharp.
- There is no fee to enter.

Lyrics & Songs

- Lyrics and music must be original and in keeping with the Optimist Club theme of a positive message.
- Songs must be between 3 – 4 minutes in total.
- Please bring 3 COPIES of your song lyrics to the contest for the judges to read as you perform – **DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE SONG** as we will number your submission according to your performance order when you register. Also, submit a copy via email to optimistclubofchwkw@gmail.com with LYRICS in the subject line.

Equipment

- Contestants are responsible for their own equipment (eg: guitar, keyboards, amplifier, etc.)
- Up to 3 microphones will be provided with a sound system.
- If you need a drum kit, please let the coordinator know – all other instruments are to be brought by the contestant.

Judge's Scores

- Quality - 10 points - Is the song 'polished' with few or no mistakes?
- Presentation - 10 points - Are they organized? Do they look happy to be here?
- Content - 10 points - Is the song appropriate for the Optimist theme – a positive message?
- Overall performance - 10 points - Did they convince you they were sincere and having fun?
- Bonus Points - Judges discretion – up to 10 additional points – stage presence; likeability; confidence etc.
- Deducted Points – If song is under 3 minutes or over 4 minutes long - 5 points will be deducted
- Total of 50 points will be awarded

If you have questions, please contact:

Fred Webber at 604-314-2787 or

Glenda Standeven 604-997-5787