

Thomas B. Wahlder Presents

# LET'S GIVE 'EM THE GOSPEL: CHOIR COMPETITION

## Overview and Official Rules

### Overview

Thomas B. Wahlder is inviting churches and their choirs from select parishes to participate in the “Let’s Give ‘Em The Gospel Choir Competition.” This exciting, new competition was created to showcase local community talent and to bring together musicians from across the central region of Louisiana.

### Eligibility

- a) Each performing member of the choir must be 18 years or older.
- b) Choirs must have a minimum of 8 members.
- c) Choirs must not exceed 20 members.
- d) Choirs must be able to perform on the live competition date of Saturday, April 6, 2024 anytime between 2pm and 6pm. If selected and advancing to the semi-final and final round choirs will need to perform in front of a live audience beginning at 7:00 pm.
- e) Choirs must sign media and liability waivers in order to participate.
- f) Each performing member of the entrant must be a U.S. resident physically residing in one of the following parishes of Louisiana (Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Tensas, or Winn)

## In-Eligibility

- a) A choir or any of its individual members who are professional musicians. A professional musician is defined as "being signed to or contracted with a major record label".
- b) A choir or any of its individual members who are under any type of contract that would prohibit their participation in this contest.
- c) Each performing member must be regular, active members of the choir.
- d) A choir or any of its individual members who do not meet the Eligibility Requirements above.

## How To Enter/ Competition Information

This Contest begins on February 7th, 2024 and ends at 4:00 p.m. CST March 6, 2024 (the "Entry Period") and consists of three (3) phases. The Sponsor is not responsible for late or unsuccessful attempts to enter. The Sponsor reserves the right to allow for minor fluctuations between the timing of an Entry and the actual runtime of the Contest, based on clear intent to comply with the Official Rules, as determined in the Sponsor's sole discretion.

### Phase 1: Entry Period/Online Audition Submission

- A. During the Entry Period, log on to <https://thomasbwahlder.com/gospel>, fill out the online registration form and upload an original video.
- B. The Entry may not exceed eight (8) minutes in total duration.
- C. Videos must be filmed in widescreen (no vertical video will be accepted) and the video file must not exceed 1 GB.
- D. Performance does not have to be filmed in front of an audience and cannot be more than one year old.

**Phase 2: Selection of Finalists:** On Friday, March 8, 2024 Sponsor will select the top 8 finalists from amongst all eligible entries received during the entry period based on the below criteria. The decision of the sponsor and preliminary judges will be final.

- A. Diction (clarity, naturalness, purity of vowel, and articulation of consonants)
- B. Stage presence (general audience appeal)
- C. Originality in presentation (dynamics/style, expression)
- D. Rhythmic accuracy (balance, blend and accuracy in pitch)
- E. Conductor's ability (awareness of musical elements and choir communication)

Note: The choirs selected to perform on April 6th will be listed on <https://thomasbwahlder.com/gospel>, and each choir representative will be notified via email and/or telephone on March 9, 2024. An information pack for the finals will be emailed upon notification.

**Phase 3: Finals:** The Eight Finalists will compete live at Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center in Alexandria, La in 3 rounds of competition on April 6, 2024 with the final four taking the stage in front of a live audience beginning at 7:00 PM.

- A. Each Finalist will have no more than 10 minutes for each of their performances.
- B. Performances exceeding 10 minutes will result in a score deduction of 10 points for every 10 seconds exceeding the time allotment.
- C. Each Finalist is responsible for their own pre-recorded tracks/music. Music must be submitted prior to finals and is due on designated date.
- D. Finalists must be able to provide a contact person for all production related needs. This individual must be prompt in all correspondence with the production manager & sound engineers. All music and production related information will be due no later than March 27, 2024 at 5pm CST.
- E. Entries may be in the following categories/genres of music: traditional or contemporary gospel, praise, worship or holy hip-hop and at least one song must be up-tempo. Music must be original or in the public domain.
- F. No pre-recorded vocal tracks are allowed in this competition.
- G. Although official church choir robes and/or formal attire are not required for the performance, choir clothing must not contain any content/information that is abusive, racist, sexist, homophobic, vulgar, obscene, offensive, defamatory, or otherwise objectionable. Choir robes are highly encouraged but not judged.
- H. Each finalist is asked to provide a 90 second "about us" video on their church for use during the event.

## The Finals

**Round One:** Eight Choirs will compete live in front of judges between 2pm-6pm on April 6, 2024 for one of 4 spots in the live in front of an audience finals which begin at 7:00 pm. The four choirs that are eliminated will receive a prize of \$500 each for their church for making it to the finals.

**Round Two:** Four Choirs will compete in front of a live audience and judges beginning at 7:00 pm on April 6, 2024. Each will have 10 minutes to perform. As they enter the stage a video of their church will play introducing the group. At the end of round two, the judges will announce the two choirs moving on to round three. The two choirs that were eliminated in the semi-finale round (round two) will receive a prize of \$1,000 each for their church.

**Round Three:** The remaining Two Choirs will take the stage again to compete head to head in front of a live audience and judges. Each will have 10 minutes to perform a different song selection than round two. At the end of round three, the judges will announce second and first place. The Second place winner will receive \$2,500 for their church and the first place winner will receive \$5,000 for their church.

**Judging Criteria:** Judges will consist of gospel artists & musicians, entertainment industry professionals, and Religious Representatives. Standards for judging will be based on the below criteria. The decisions of the judges will be final. In the case of tie scores, the stage presence score will be the determining factor.

- A. Diction (clarity, naturalness, purity of vowel, and articulation of consonants)
- B. Stage presence (general audience appeal)
- C. Originality in presentation (dynamics/style, expression)
- D. Rhythmic accuracy (balance, blend and accuracy in pitch)
- E. Conductor's ability (awareness of musical elements and choir communication)

## Disqualification

a) Videos, musical selections and choir clothing must not contain any content/information that is abusive, racist, sexist, homophobic, vulgar, obscene, pornographic, indecent, offensive, threatening, defamatory, libelous or otherwise objectionable or that promotes such against any individual or group. Content may not be sexually explicit, reflect any illegal activity, or be deemed inappropriate by Thomas B Wahlder or "Let's Give 'Em The Gospel" and/or it's judges.

b) No assistance by anyone other than the Choir Director may be given to the choir during the performance. Any such assistance overseen by any of the judges and/or reported by two or more individuals and verified may be cause for automatic disqualification. This includes performers added to the group without prior notice and approval by the production manager.

c) An individual may not compete in more than one choir.

d) An individual or choir that is deemed a late arrival. A late arrival is defined as "15 minutes late from determined arrival time with the production manager unsuccessful in reaching group contact by phone"

e) There will be no singing talent substitutions allowed. If there is an ensemble or choir and a member is no longer a part of the group, ill or does not wish to perform, that ensemble or choir may move forward if selected with the remaining members, however substitutions will not be permitted, i.e., a person who did not sing in the previous round of competition cannot newly join the contest and perform. Contestants may not add additional singers during semi-finals or finale performances.

## Prizes

Eight Praise Teams/Choirs will receive the opportunity to perform live on the “Let’s Give ‘Em the Gospel” finals scheduled on April 6th, 2024 in Alexandria, Louisiana. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges to receive a combined total of \$10,000 in prize money payable to winning praise team/choir’s church in the amounts listed below.

- First Place: \$5,000
- Second Place: \$2,500
- (Two) Semi-Final Prizes) \$1,000 each
- (Four) Quarter Final Prizes: \$500 each

The prize does not include any expenses not specifically listed herein. Any federal and state taxes on the prize are the sole responsibility of the Winners. No substitution or transfer of prizes permitted, except at the sole discretion of Sponsor. All monetary awards will be made payable to the winning praise team/choir’s church. Checks will be mailed the following week of the competition to the church’s official mailing address.

## Important Dates

### Application Submission Deadline

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 @ 4:00 PM CST

### Choir “Finalists” Selection Announcement Date

Friday, March 8, 2024 @ 5:30 PM CST

### Competition Date

Saturday, April 6, 2024 @ 2:00 PM CST: Live Finals in front of Audience 7:00 PM CST

