

NCYC'S *top Talent*

Contest Overview

Heart Beat Records, in partnership with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), sponsors *NCYC'S top Talent*, a contest to find the very best young Catholic singers/musicians. Contestants must be high school students in November 2015, planning to attend or be registered for 2015 NCYC in Indianapolis. Those under the age of 18 must complete the parental/ guardian consent form in order to compete.

From now until October 31, 2015, Heart Beat Records will accept and review demo recordings either on CD, flash drive, or online posting. Contestants will be chosen to audition in person at NCYC on Friday, November 20, 2015. The top ten will then perform on Saturday, November 21, 2015, in front of a live audience of peers and a panel of expert judges, who will select a winner to record with Heart Beat Records. But this talent show is not just about one performance. Previous finalists have released CDs and songs on iTunes together with music videos and nationwide tour dates. Some are now on their way to a fulltime future in music. We are looking for someone who takes seriously their God given talent.

To enter, submit completed registration, questionnaire and permission forms; demo CD, flash drive, or web link to the demo, and short biography written by the contestant, by October 31, 2015. If your demo is online then you may submit the documents via email. The demo must be suitable for a Catholic youth audience, an original song (or songs) or cover(s). They need not be specifically Catholic or Christian, and could be pop hits, but lyrics must not be offensive or contain inappropriate language or messages contrary to Catholic teaching or values. You may submit more than one song with your application, but only one application per person, and the initial decision is final, so no second application will be accepted. A contemporary or pop song will be more suitable than liturgy or hymns. You may stand a better chance of making the finals if you choose a song that other people might not think of. **Demos will not be returned.**

About the judges:

Tony Melendez

Successful toe-pickin' guitar player and vocalist. In 1987 he played for Pope John Paul II in Los Angeles and the Pope responded to his playing with a kiss. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, and has made countless TV appearances. He campaigns for pro-life causes, gives motivational talks, was keynote speaker for 2007 NCYC. He has performed in 40 countries, made 7 albums, and published one book.

ValLimar Jansen

Highly regarded singer, cantor and recording artist, college professor, a leader of worship and prayer, and a workshop presenter at conferences across the United States. She has sung and toured professionally throughout the United States, Switzerland, France, Germany, Belgium and Japan. Known especially for her work with gospel, contemporary Christian and gospel-jazz styles. She's got both experience and credentials!

Joia Farmer

Catholic singer/songwriter and presenter who wrote the 2009 NCYC theme song, "Christ Reigns." She has shared the stage with Jesse Manibusan, Steve Angrisano, Matt Maher, and other guys with guitars. She is Program Director for a crisis pregnancy center, and a strong advocate for pro-life and pro-woman causes. She's released 3 albums, but is most proud to be mother to 5 children and married to Brad of APeX ministries.

Sal Solo

A & R Director and Producer with Heart Beat Records. With Brit band Classix Nouveaux, he toured the world, achieving #1 hits, and gold and silver discs. He sang with Rockets in Italy, who sold 1.5 million albums. He relocated to the US in 1999, doing large youth events around the country, including NCYC. He produced our previous winners and finalists; has written one book, performed in 37 countries, and released a total of 20 albums.



Contest Registration Form

(Write clearly, printing in block letters)

The following materials must be sent no later than Saturday, October 31, 2015, to:

NCYC's Top Talent c/o. 5549 Florence Harbor Drive, Orlando FL 32829

ncycstoptalentcontest@gmail.com [facebook.com/pages/NCYCS-top-Talent/186903851381334](https://www.facebook.com/pages/NCYCS-top-Talent/186903851381334)

Please be sure to include:

- Completed Contest Registration Form (this sheet)
- Completed Questionnaire
- Short biography of no more than one sheet (written by contestant)
- Photograph (Head and shoulders. Can be sent via email or Facebook)
- Completed Parental/Guardian Permission Form (required for contestants under the age of 18)
- Demo recording
or recording available on the web at _____

(Insert web link)

Contestant Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Full Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____ Social Media: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Instrument: Voice Guitar Keyboard Other _____

Any other talents/experience related to music Other _____

I am registered with my parish/school/diocese to attend NCYC I plan to register

Diocese: _____ Parish/School: _____

Parish/School Mailing Address: _____

Name of Parish/School Leader: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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Questionnaire

**We require a bio written by the contestant (not by a parent or other third party)
In order to help in creating your bio, please answer the following first:**

Your musical influences _____

Name an artist you most admire _____

Name an artist who best illustrates your style _____

Choose three songs by other artists to illustrate your style 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____

How would you describe your own musical style? _____

Which ONE genre of music would you want to sing? _____

Do you see your musical gift as primarily for: The Church The mainstream Broadway Other _____

Do you use music in any ministry Yes No If Yes describe _____

What would you most like to do with your music: Become famous Make others happy Express yourself

Communicate a message other _____

Do you see music as a: career ministry hobby Other _____

Do you write your own songs? Yes No If Yes, how many songs have you completed? _____

Name your top three priorities in life: 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____

Name your biggest ambition _____

How would you describe your approach to life? _____

How would you describe your personality: Bubbly Friendly Serious Outgoing Crazy Other _____

What would you consider your best personal quality? _____

What do you consider needs more work about you? _____

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? _____

How do you feel about your Catholic faith? Passionate Committed Average Don't know

What would be your message to other young people? _____



Parental/Guardian Permission Form

THE FOLLOWING FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EVERY YOUTH (UNDER 18) PARTICIPATING

I hereby give permission for my child, _____, to participate in **NCYC'S top Talent** sponsored by **Heart Beat Records** and the **National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry**. I hereby release and indemnify **Heart Beat Records**, the **National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry**, and their respective officers, agents, employees, and volunteers from and against any and all liability arising from claims of any kind or nature whatsoever from my child's participation in the competition. I understand that if my child violates any laws regarding possession of alcohol or drugs or pornography, or rules governing the event, or if they use inappropriate language or behavior, they may be immediately disqualified.

I **GRANT PERMISSION** for my child to perform and for his/her image and recording to be used in products and publicity related to the competition. I understand that if my child becomes a finalist or winner, they will enter into recording and music publishing contracts with **Heart Beat Records**.

I **FURTHER GRANT PERMISSION** for the organizers, producers, and/ or judges of **NCYC'S top TALENT** to communicate with my child as necessary to facilitate his/her participation in the competition.

I **UNDERSTAND THAT** the decision of the judges, organizers, producers is final and I will not challenge their decision or the results.

I **fully understand the consequences of and sign this Parental/Guardian Permission Form knowingly, freely, and willingly.**

Signature _____ Date: _____

Father/Guardian Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Mother/Guardian Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____