



MUSIC CATEGORIES (SCORE AND SONG) FAQs

Contact: Music@Oscars.org

Please note: Closed captions are REQUIRED for all Original Song clips. For more information, please visit the [technical specifications](#) page.

The Music Branch gives two awards each year: one for Original Song and one for Original Score.

1. Is the Original Song deadline earlier than Original Score?

Yes, the deadline for Original Song submissions is October 14. The Original Score deadline is November 4.

2. Which film categories are eligible for Original Score and Original Song?

A film MUST be submitted to General Entry to enter the music awards. Only feature-length narrative films and documentary feature films that are submitted to General Entry are eligible for the music awards.

Short films in any genre are **not** eligible for music awards.

3. Is my Documentary Feature eligible to submit in the Music categories?

Scores and Songs for Documentary Features may be eligible if they are submitted for General Entry. A Music submission for a Documentary Feature will be ineligible if a General Entry form is not also submitted by the November 12 deadline.

PLEASE NOTE: Submitting a film for Documentary Feature will not automatically make it eligible in the Music categories for song and score awards – it is a separate submission process which includes a submission for General Entry.

4. Can I submit my song or score if the studio has not yet submitted it for General Entry?

Yes, you can create Music category submissions before your film is submitted for General Entry.

First, make sure you register on the submissions site to create an account.

<https://submissions.oscars.org/>

Once your registration has been approved, you may proceed with your submission. If your film title does not appear in the Submission Entry Creation dropdown, please select the 'Film Not Listed' option.

5. How long must I wait until my Music submission registration is approved?

Registration usually takes between 24 and 48 hours to be approved. Once approved, you will receive an email and then will be able to proceed with your Music submission and forms.

6. Can I submit my Music entry with my General Entry on November 12?

No. The November 12 deadline is only for General Entry. You must submit your Music Song submission by October 14 and Music Score submission by November 4. You have until November 12 to submit your General Entry form, which then completes your submission.

If you fail to submit a General Entry form by November 12, your Music entries will be void.

7. Does General Entry have two deadlines?

Yes. However, **Music submissions are still due on October 14 (SONG) and November 4 (SCORE), regardless of when you submit your film for general entry.**

For more information on the General Entry deadlines, review the General Entry checklist on the [Rules and Eligibility](#) page.

8. Is there a fee associated with a Song or Score Music submission?

No.

9. I submitted my Music submission already. Is that it?

No. After you submit your Music submission, please make sure you also submit a General Entry form. For more information, please visit the FEATURE FILM – GENERAL ENTRY section of the [Rules and Eligibility](#) page.

REMINDER: If you are submitting a film for Documentary Feature, please make sure you complete the **separate submission** for the Music categories if you intend to be considered for Music Song or Music Score.

10. How do I start a submission and know if my film qualifies?

Please review the awards categories for film submission under the [Rules & Eligibility](#) page.

Navigate to <https://submissions.oscars.org/> for further details about deadlines to note in categories for your submission(s). Scroll to the bottom of the page and either 'Register' as a new credit submitter or 'Login' from a previously approved account. Once you are logged in, please follow and read ALL steps in the submission flow chart. If you have questions or troubleshooting needs, contact music@oscars.org. If necessary, please include a screenshot as well.

11. Who is an authorized representative to register for a Music entry submission?

Agents, managers, personal assistants, publicists, and studios/distributors may submit on behalf of the artist. However, note that the artist must sign the submission form, verifying that it is their work being considered.

12. Where can I find the forms I need to complete?

Once you begin the submission process, most forms can be found on the submissions site under 'Upload Materials.' Please download, complete, and sign the required forms. You will then upload the forms to the submissions site. The submitter must provide their own cue sheet and vocal lead sheet.

13. I have a different way of doing things. Can I submit my own version of the breakdown form?

No. All Academy submission forms must be completed to be eligible for consideration. We only accept official Academy forms downloaded from our site.

14. Can I sign on behalf of the composers or songwriters?

No. All documents must be reviewed, acknowledged, and signed by the authors of the work. We will not accept documents signed by submitters, assistants, agents, or other representatives.

15. Will my submission qualify if I send in the cue sheet by itself?

No. All forms (please see Rule Nineteen) are required to be signed, completed, and uploaded for a submission to be eligible for consideration.

16. Will my submission qualify if I provide a YouTube link or .MOV file as my song submission?

No.

17. What if my cue sheet is not finalized by the deadline?

If a cue sheet is not finalized by the deadline, please contact music@oscars.org.

18. The score I am submitting does not meet the minimum requirement of 35% of the film's music, but it is close. What do I do?

You can submit a letter emailed to music@oscars.org explaining why you did not meet the minimum percentage. The Music Branch Executive Committee will review your materials and decide on eligibility. The Committee's decision on eligibility is final. There is no appeal process.

19. I want to submit more than three songs. They all have different contributors. Can I do this?

No. No more than three songs may be submitted from any film.

20. The Original Song Contribution Form only has room for four names. Can I submit more than four songwriters?

No more than four individuals will be considered. In cases where more than four songwriters are credited, the submission must be made as a group. The group form can be found on the submissions site.

Please visit our [Rules & Eligibility](#) page (Rule Nineteen, Section 2 K) for more information.

21. How many cuts can I make in my three-minute clip for Original Song?

There is no limit on the number of cuts in the required song clip. The purpose of the clip is to showcase how and where the song is used in the film.

22. What is the new song rule associated with end credit songs?

For songs submitted as the first new music cue once the end credits begin, the video clip must include the last 15 seconds of the film prior to the start of the credits, for a total clip runtime of 3:15.

23. Are we allowed to use dissolves and transitions in our song clip?

No. We do not allow any form of manipulation in the song clip. All transitions must be jump cuts. The content must be pulled directly from the final release version of the film.

PLEASE NOTE: If your song clip is in the end credits, the clip must show the end of the film, and the beginning of the credits with no cuts or dissolves of any kind. The purpose is to show a seamless, uninterrupted flow from the end of the film into the credits.

24. What if my song clip is longer than three minutes?

We prefer that you choose the out-point; however, if we contact you to resubmit the proper length and we do not get a response, we will end your clip at the three-minute mark.

25. Where may I access more information regarding closed captions?

Please visit our [Technical Specifications](#) page.

26. Do I need to provide closed captions for the whole film or just the clip?

Just the clip.

27. Do I need to submit closed captions if my song is in the end credits?

Yes.

28. Do I need to submit a clip of my Original Score?

No.

29. Is a song/score that has been previously entered or nominated eligible to be considered again?

No.

30. Will I receive notification that my submission has been completed?

You can see the status of your submission on the portal. Please note that the Music submission process differs from other categories. The site will not reflect an approved status until the end of November.

If you are not sure if your submission is complete, please contact music@oscars.org.

31. The submission site has a section for "Streaming Asset." What is that?

Streaming asset refers to your song clip(s). If you are submitting a score, please disregard this section.