

Sevierville

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DOLLY PARTON VOCAL CONTEST CALLING FOR CONTESTANTS **Mountain Soul Vocal Competition Honors the Songwriting of Dolly Parton**

Sevierville (TN) – Dolly Parton’s hometown, Sevierville, Tennessee, is calling for contestants nationwide for its 5th Annual Mountain Soul Vocal Competition honoring the songwriting of Dolly Parton.

To honor Dolly’s incredible song catalogue, which includes over 3,000 songs penned by the Smoky Mountain songbird herself, the Sevierville Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 5th Annual Mountain Soul Vocal Competition. During this competition, contestants must sing a song written by Dolly Parton in the style of his or her own choosing (country, rock, rap, bluegrass, etc.). Contestants may enter in the 13 and up age division or the 12 and under division for this competition.

“This competition is truly unique and draws competitors from all corners of the United States,” says Chamber Marketing Coordinator and event organizer Amanda Maples Marr. “Since Dolly Parton is Sevierville’s hometown girl, holding a competition that honors her songwriting ability was a natural fit for us.” As far as event organizers know, this is the only vocal competition in the world that specifically honors the songwriting of Dolly Parton. Winning competitors take home cash and prizes including a recording session in Nashville, Tennessee and a guitar autographed by Dolly Parton.

The deadline to enter is April 10, 2009.

How to Enter

Audition tapes, sent by mail, will be judged by a panel of entertainment professionals who will identify 30 finalists (20 in the 13+ category and 10 in the 12 and under category). Those finalists will then perform during the *Mountain Soul Vocal Competition Finals* at Bloomin’ Barbeque & Bluegrass on Saturday, May 16, 2009. The finals will be held at the Sevier County Courthouse near the bronze statue of Dolly Parton.

Prizes are as follows:

Ages 13 and Up

First Prize	\$500 + Nashville Recording Session at Sound Wave Studios, Guitar Autographed by Dolly Parton & Accommodations
Second Prize	\$300
Third Prize	\$200

Ages 12 and Under

First Prize	\$100 + 2 Season Passes to Dollywood + Guitar Autographed by Dolly Parton
Second Prize	\$50 + 2 Day Passes to Dollywood
Third Prize	\$25 + 2 Day Passes to Dollywood

While contestants may sing the Dolly Parton song of his or her own choosing, there is one song that is off limits. “Contestants may not sing *I will Always Love You*,” says Marr. “In our first competition year the song was incredibly popular with over half of the finalists belting it out. But we want to highlight a wider range of Dolly’s writing so we’re asking contestants to choose something different.” For a complete list of Dolly’s songs, competitors – and those that are interested – should visit www.dollymania.net. It is not necessary, nor is it encouraged to impersonate Dolly Parton, either physically or vocally.

Interested vocalists may obtain an application online at www.BloominBBQ.com or by calling the Sevierville Chamber of Commerce at 1-888-889-7415. Return the application and entry fee along with an audition tape, cd, vhs or dvd of the contestant singing a song written by Dolly Parton in the style of his or her own choosing to the Sevierville Chamber of Commerce. Entries must be postmarked by April 10, 2009.

The *Mountain Soul Vocal Competition* is part of Sevierville's Bloomin' Barbeque & Bluegrass event May 15-16, 2009. For more information about the *Mountain Soul Vocal Competition* or Bloomin' Barbeque & Bluegrass, visit www.BloominBBQ.com.

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