

Talent Guidelines

Talent is your opportunity to shine and set yourself apart from the crowd. The following list describes the rules regarding talent as well as the talent music. Music (if applicable) must follow all of the following guidelines in order to be used.

- Talent must be under 90 seconds. Any talent that goes over 90 seconds will result in a zero-score for the talent section. Try to use as close to 90 seconds as possible in order to maximize your stage time.
- Talents must be done alone. Live accompanists, dance partners, acrobatic spotters, etc are not acceptable.
- Vocalists may have a CD with back-up singers doing “oohs” and “aahs” but the backgrounds vocalists cannot sing the lyrics or melody of the song as this gives un-fair assistance to the individual
- Contestants will only be scored on the talents that are performed live. For example, if a contestant pre-records themselves playing the Piano and then sings to it on stage, they will only be scored on the vocal performance.
- Copyright violations – Miss America has an agreement to only use music and accompaniment which is licensed by ASCAP or BMI. Visit either site at www.BMI.com or www.ASCAP.com and search the database for the music you hope to use. If the song is not approved for usage by either BMI or ASCAP you will be unable to use it at the Miss Lane County competition. If a contestant is using any written works, poetry, or monologues which are their own, the writer/owner of the works must be credited during the talent introduction.
- Contestants must hand in 2 CDs of music labeled with their name and the name of the song. Once these CDs have been handed in and are approved you will be unable to fix or resubmit your music.
- Props must follow the following guidelines
 - No live animals
 - No fire, archery, fire-arms, or knives/swords
 - No props which are not functional / critical to performance
 - No sets or background enhancers
 - No motion pictures, video or slide-show aids of any kind

How to search BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc)

- Go to www.BMI.com
- Under “Select a Site”, click on the arrow and scroll down to “Repertoire Search”.
- Click “Accept”.

How to search ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers)

- Go to www.ASCAP.com
- Click on “ACE Database”.
- Click on “Search the Database”

PRINT THE BMI/ASCAP FORM AND HAND IT IN WITH THE MUSIC RELEASE FORM

Music Release Form

I give my permission to the Miss Lane County Scholarship Program for single-night use of the talent accompaniment music track for _____. Permission covers single-night use during the preliminary pageant.

Manufacturer: _____

Song Title: _____

Catalog #: _____

Writer(s): _____

Publishers: _____

My role in this recording was as (director / producer / musician / etc. – state below) **NOT Writer or Publisher**

In giving consent, I release the Miss Lane County Scholarship Program and its agents and assigns, from any liability for any violation of any personal or property rights, which I might have in connection with said recording, and waive any right to approve accompanying written or narrative material.

I am involved in the making of this music track and I represent that I am of full legal age.

Date: _____ **Signed:** _____

Print Name: _____

I am involved in the making of this music track and not of full legal age, consent is hereby given by my guardian.

Participant

Date: _____ **Signed:** _____

Print Name: _____

Parent or Guardian

Date: _____ **Signed:** _____

Print Name: _____