

# PIE Day Song Contest Official Rules and Submission Guidelines

SING OUT PROUD is the theme for PIE Day 2025, and [Affirming Connections](#) and [Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble](#) are excited to announce the first-ever National Affirming/PIE Day song contest!

Whether this is your first time hearing about PIE Day, or you've been celebrating for years, we encourage all emerging and established songwriters, singers, and performers to submit!

Please read all of the details below, and when you're ready to submit, head to our [submission page](#) on the [pieday.ca](#) website.

The submission deadline is **November 1, 2024**.

## DETAILS:

There are two categories:

- **Original Song** (music + lyrics)
- **Filmed Performance** (existing song performed by an ensemble or choir)

In both categories, we're looking for entrants to bring something new, fresh, or unique to the canon of Affirming songs. Does your song contain tangible examples of what being Affirming can look and feel like? What does it look and feel like to be PIE: Publicly, Intentionally and Explicitly inclusive and Affirming of all 2SLGBTQIA+ people? We're challenging you to think "beyond the rainbow," and get creative and specific in your embodiment of PIE!



## WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

**Original Song** (music + lyrics) entries will be judged for their:

- Musicality (including singability/playability, ease of transcription, and flexibility to different arrangements)
- Creativity
- Originality
- Specificity (eg. more than just rainbows)
- Embodiment of the one or more of the values of PIE

**Filmed Performance** (existing song performed by an ensemble or choir) entries will be judged for their:

- Musicality
- Stage presence
- Creativity in song choice and performance
- Embodiment of one or more of the values of PIE
- Production value\*

\*Entries in the Performance category are free to use whatever resources the ensemble/choir has available (ex., costumes, props, instruments, etc.); however, performances will primarily be judged on their demonstration of effort and commitment to the performance. If you would like suggestions for how to technically film your performance to get the best audio and visual quality, contact us at: [piesongcontest@affirmingconnections.com](mailto:piesongcontest@affirmingconnections.com)

## PRIZES:

The top two original song winners will receive:

- Professional arrangements of their songs
- Promotion of their songs for use by those celebrating Affirming and PIE Day events, throughout PIE Day 2025 and 2026
- \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place

The top two filmed ensemble/choir performances will receive:

- Hosting of their performance video on the [pieday.ca](http://pieday.ca) website, and other partner channels

- Promotion of their performance video for use by those celebrating Affirming and PIE Day events, throughout PIE Day 2025 and 2026
- \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place

The prize amount will be awarded in one cheque in Canadian dollars to the main contact for each winning submission. In the event that there is more than one artist (author/composer/singer/etc.), the onus to fairly split up the prize is up to the submitting artists.

## **SUBMISSION RULES:**

1. Entries in the Original Song category:
  - Must be suitable for use in a worship service or faith-based gathering (as either a congregational song or as special music/solo).
  - Must be original in both text and tune (i.e., no lyrical rewrites of existing melodies).
  - May be the composition of one person or of a team, as long as all authors are named in the entry and have given permission for the song to be submitted.
  - Must embody one or more of the concepts of PIE (Public, Intentional, and Explicit) and celebrate and affirm the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
  - Should use inclusive and preferably expansive language (*i.e. avoid using pronouns for God and binary language for humans like “he” and “her,” avoid “kingdom” and “Lord” language, etc.*).
2. Entries in the Ensemble/Choir Performance category:
  - Must not have been recorded before August 2, 2024, and must not have been nor will be publicly shared until the winners have been announced.
  - Must be suitable for use in a worship service or faith-based gathering.
  - Must embody one or more of the concepts of PIE (Public, Intentional, and Explicit) and celebrate and affirm the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
  - Should use inclusive and preferably expansive language
  - Music and lyrics from any existing song can be performed, as long as it complies with all stated guidelines.
3. All entries must be submitted by the deadline of November 1, 2024.
4. Each entrant can submit one song per category. (*i.e. if you are a singer/songwriter and in a musical group, you can submit one song in the original song category, and perform in one filmed performance piece submission with your group.*)
5. Performances and lyrics in both categories should be suitable for all audiences.

## HOW TO SUBMIT:

### ORIGINAL SONG

1. Fill out the entire submission form at: <https://pieday.ca/song-contest>
2. Attach **two** files to the form:
  - a. One copy of the full song lyrics (.doc, .docx or .pdf only)
  - b. One audio only file of the song (.mp3 or .m4a files only)

### ENSEMBLE/CHOIR PERFORMANCE

1. Have your main contact person fill out the entire submission form at: <https://pieday.ca/song-contest>
2. Upload a high quality video recording of your ensemble or choir performance (.m4a or .mov files only) to a Google Drive or Dropbox folder, or [WeTransfer](#). Include the SongTitle and your Group Name in the file name.
3. Email/share the link to download your video to [piesongcontest@affirmingconnections.com](mailto:piesongcontest@affirmingconnections.com)
  - a. Note: make sure to set the permissions to allow anyone with the link to download the file.

Please follow every step of your submission requirements to ensure we receive all of the appropriate files and information.

All entries will be acknowledged within two weeks of receipt.

## NEED HELP?

We're here for you! Contact us at [piesongcontest@affirmingconnections.com](mailto:piesongcontest@affirmingconnections.com) with any questions.

## THE FINE PRINT:

Qualified entries will be evaluated by three judges selected by Affirming Connections (AC) and Affirm United/S' affirmer Ensemble (AU/SE). Their decision is expected to be made by December 15, 2024 and will be final. Entrants must not contact the judges regarding any aspect of the contest, before, during, or after the submission process and announcement of winners. Doing so will result in immediate disqualification.

Only two winning entries are anticipated, but the judges may decide to add an honourable mention. The winning entries will be announced publicly and shared in January 2025, after the winners are notified. Timeline subject to change if required.

The original song author(s) and/or composer(s) will retain full copyright of their entry, with the understanding that AC and AU/SE will publish the winning submissions (and honourable mention if chosen) music and lyrics on the PIE Day, AC, and AU/SE websites, newsletters, and social media channels, as well as potentially in other partner locations. The filmed performance piece entrants retain full copyright of their recording, with the understanding that AC and AU/SE will publish the recording of the winning submissions (and honourable mention if chosen) on the PIE Day, AC, and AU/SE websites, newsletters, social media channels, and YouTube channels, as well as potentially in other partner locations.

Entrants in both categories also give permission for anyone to make use of these materials for free until April 1, 2026, including the winning performance video recordings (and honourable mention if chosen) being posted on the PIE Day, AC, and AU/SE websites, newsletters, social media channels, and YouTube channels, and the original song audio file, charts, and lyrics being posted on the AC, PIE Day, and AU/SE websites, newsletters, and social media channels for free use to those who want to use the songs in an Affirming context. On April 1, 2026, the winning entrants will be contacted to confirm their continued permission for the songs to be hosted publicly, or whether they would like to discontinue their use.