

**DESTINATION: ANNAPOLIS & ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**  
**Songwriter Competition FAQs**

- About:** Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC), the official Destination Marketing Tourism Organization for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, and the Annapolis Songwriters Festival have teamed up to create a songwriter competition that provides rising and established performing artists with an opportunity to create a destination theme song for possible use in a future VAAAC advertising campaign.
- Prize:** The creator of the winning song will receive a \$1,000 honorarium as well as complimentary accommodations and round-trip transportation to Annapolis to perform the song before a live audience at VAAAC's Annual Meeting and Tourism Industry Reception at the 26 West Street Visitors Center in downtown Historic Annapolis on Tuesday, January 24, 2023.
- Who Can Apply:** The competition is open to aspiring and established songwriters/musicians within the United States. To enter, musicians must upload their creations in a WAV format on the application page noted below.
- Judging:** A panel comprised of tourism, arts, entertainment, and marketing professionals will select the winner. Judges will evaluate basic components, overall effectiveness, and the ease with which the song could be presented live in front of an audience. The piece will not be judged on the production quality of the recording. The song should not exceed 3-4 minutes. No jingles, please.
- Competition Dates:** The competition kicks off on Thursday, September 15, and wraps up at 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2022.
- Entry Fee:** Complimentary
- Additional Details:** With the exception of the winning song, all entries will remain the property of the submitting songwriters. When entering songs for the competition, artists will provide VAAAC with a license for use of the songs through January 31, 2023. Artists will grant VAAAC permission to post the songs online to facilitate judging by community stakeholders. The winner shall provide a license granting VAAAC the right to use the song in perpetuity at its sole discretion for tourism promotion and economic development purposes.

At the time of application, songwriters must include an audio file and lyrics of the song with each upload. Songwriters may submit a maximum of two songs. Songs must include the words: Annapolis, Anne Arundel, Adventures or Adventure, and Maryland, and include a minimum of two of the following words: *BWI Airport, Chesapeake Bay, Crabs, Oysters, Sailing, Boating, Live Music, Arts, Murals, Music, Culture, History,*

*Nightlife, State Capital, Arundel Mills, LIVE! Casino*, or streets, attractions, museums, icons, special cocktails, stores, bars, or places/neighborhoods within Annapolis or Anne Arundel County. Songwriters may select the music genre of their choice.

**Goal of Song:** The *Destination: Annapolis & Anne Arundel County* song should prompt a prospective overnight visitor to consider including Annapolis, the Greater BWI Region, and/or Anne Arundel County in his or her future travel plans.

**How Song will Be Used:** The *Destination: Annapolis & Anne Arundel County* song will be played at visitor centers, conventions, sports tourism events, and at other special events. It will also be a component of VAAAC's marketing, promotions, and advertising campaigns.

### **Why Visitors Love Annapolis and Anne Arundel County**

Annapolis is the gateway to North America's largest estuary, the Chesapeake Bay. A bustling port town in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Annapolis is world renowned as *America's Sailing Capital* and one of the top waterfront destinations in the country.

Boasting more than 500 miles of Chesapeake Bay shoreline, Annapolis and the surrounding Anne Arundel County countryside offer a host of possibilities for getting out on the water – from 40-minute cruises of the Annapolis Harbor or Spa Creek aboard Watermark's *Harbor Queen* or *Miss Anne*, to two-hour cruises aboard twin 74' wooden schooners, *Woodwind* and *Woodwind II* or two-hour cruises aboard the newly refurbished 75' historic 1940 skipjack, the *Wilma Lee*, and everything in between. Visitors who prefer to blaze their own trail can charter a boat with or without a captain.

No visit to Annapolis is complete without time at City Dock, the heart and soul of the city. It's a place to see and be seen. Visitors are invited to grab an ice cream cone or a takeout lunch from one of the dozens of nearby restaurants and find a favorite spot along the seawall to watch the parade of boats go by. They soon understand how the Annapolis Harbor earned the nickname, Ego Alley!

In Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, history welcomes visitors at every turn. Home to more 18<sup>th</sup> century brick buildings than any other city in the nation, Annapolis' Historic District is a *Museum without Walls*, where every step along the brick-lined streets is a reminder of what has been and what could be. Annapolis is home to the oldest State House in continuous legislative use in the nation. The homes of Maryland's four Declaration of Independence signers still stand in Annapolis. Three of them are open to the public. Tours of the United States Naval Academy depart daily from the Armel-Leftwich Visitor Center. Just footsteps away the Museum of Historic Annapolis recounts centuries of evolution in a vibrant new exhibition, *Annapolis: An American Story*. The nearby Banneker-Douglass Museum is Maryland's official repository for African American history and culture. The newly renovated Annapolis Maritime Museum introduces visitors the ecology and economy of the Chesapeake Bay.

Annapolis and Anne Arundel County features more than 137 parks and more than 54 miles of paved trails that are perfect for hiking and biking. The 786-acre Sandy Point State Park is home to a bayside beach offering beautiful views of the iconic Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

In the BWI/Arundel Mills region, one of the largest commercial casinos in the country, Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland, beckons. Its 4,000-seat Hall at Live! is designed to accommodate the nation's top touring acts. After enjoying gaming and live entertainment, guests can walk across a promenade to spend their winnings at Maryland's largest outlet and value shopping, dining, and entertainment destination, Arundel Mills Mall.

The surrounding Anne Arundel County countryside offers its own allure. Life in the small villages of Mayo, Shady Side, Deale, and Galesville moves to the rhythm of the tides and the seasons. The 160-acre Honey's Harvest Farm in Lothian offers workshops, farm-to-table events, nature walks, and farm tours. The nearby Historic London Town and Gardens on the South River in Edgewater highlights the region's history, archaeology, and horticulture. The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center welcomes visitors to its 2,650-acre campus that spans forests, wetlands, marshes, and 15 miles of protected shoreline.

In the performing arts arena, the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, Annapolis Opera, Live Arts Maryland, Ballet Theatre of Maryland, London Town Symphony Orchestra, Classic Theatre of Maryland, and others provide everything from classic and contemporary repertoires in intimate to grand settings.

Annapolis and Anne Arundel County has a lively, ever-evolving culinary scene where visitors can enjoy live music seven days a week. Foodies are invited to enjoy fresh-from-the-bay seafood in settings from simple to sublime. Visitors who prefer to dine under the stars may opt for al fresco dining along brick-lined streets, a wine tasting at rustic wineries, or beer tastings at popular breweries.

Visitors seeking everything from history and culture to on-the-water and out-on-the-trail adventures, to one-of-a-kind shopping and dining experiences find what they're looking for and more in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Maryland.