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PENNING THEIR OWN JAILHOUSE ROCK

Twelve inmates will pit their musical talents against one another in the finals of this year's Yellow Ribbon Song Writing Competition.

The competition is now into its fifth year and the 2008 finals will be held at Changi Prison on Thursday. Family members of the participants will be allowed to attend.

The 12 finalists will be performing songs that they have penned themselves. They are vying for cash prizes in the English, Mandarin, Malay

and Tamil categories.

The winners of each category will each receive \$500, while the first and second runners-up will each receive \$100.

A song-writing workshop was held yesterday to allow the contestants to fine-tune their creations.

Themed "Celebrating Second Chances", the competition is a platform for inmates to pledge their commitment to remain crime-free and express their love for their families.

Said Lionel, 49, one of the finalists: "I'd like to express my gratitude to counsellors, fellow inmates and, most importantly, my family for supporting me. I'm just so thankful."