

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2016

Championing the creativity and power of young people to express themselves



CREATIVITY • COURAGE • INDIVIDUALITY • SELF EXPRESSION • INSPIRATION

For Immediate Release 26th May

Young Songwriters Record Winning Songs With Top Producer And Warm Up For Star-Studded Westfield Showcase

Million-selling artist Rumer and West End *Beautiful* star Cassidy Janson to perform with UK's top Young Songwriters at free London event

This week, the two overall victors of the Young Songwriter 2016 competition, Gus Harrower and Sam Hancock recorded their winning compositions with top producer Paul Stanborough. Paul has worked, alongside the highly respected Guy Chambers, with some of the most prominent names in the industry, from Kylie Minogue to Robbie Williams, Britney Spears to Tinie Tempah, and has a passion for championing and developing up 'n' coming talent.

The Young Songwriter competition winners, Gus and Sam will perform alongside runners up and highly commended entrants in a showcase event at the Westfield Shopping Centre in London on 12th June, from 2pm to 5pm, as part of the Hammersmith & Fulham ArtsFest 2016. The **headline acts** for the showcase will be acclaimed singer-songwriter and Brit Award nominee **Rumer** and West End *Beautiful the Musical* star **Cassidy Janson**. The free show is set to be an inspiring and entertaining opportunity to enjoy performances by top artists and rising young stars of the music industry.

The annual Song Academy Young Songwriter competition has gone from strength to strength since it began in 2011 and is now the leading song writing competition for young people aged 7 to 18 across the UK and Ireland. It's a springboard for the next generation of creative stars to get noticed by key players in the music industry, build confidence, have their voices heard and shine in the limelight.

This year's prestigious judging panel*, including Tom Odell, Rumer, Eg White, Lou Rhodes and Jamie Theakston, whittled down hundreds of entrants to choose a winner and two runners up from both of the competition categories, covering 7 to 12-year-olds and 13 to 18-year-olds. A number of the judges will be at Westfield on 12th June to watch their favourite finalists perform live.

Tom Odell, singer songwriter said "When I was 13 years old I started writing songs, and over the following years I became more and more obsessed with it. But the thing that always kept me awake at night was how to get them out there for people to hear them. This is why I think the Song Academy Young Songwriter competition is a great way to inspire and help through this process, and its something I wish had been around when I was starting out."

Rumer, singer songwriter said: "I was very impressed with these children's songs and was taken aback by their originality and their beautiful, unselfconscious approach to storytelling. I was very humbled by a lot of their words."

Director of PRS for Music, Myles Keller said "This wonderful competition empowers young songwriters, enabling them to showcase their talent and offering them a 'one of a kind' opportunity to gain crucial feedback from some of the very best British songwriters. In the early stages of a career, this kind of help is like gold dust and really enables industry newcomers to build strong, sustainable careers. Music is integral to our nation's identity and it is crucial that we nurture the next generation of songwriters now to ensure a creative future. PRS for Music is absolutely delighted to support such a positive and exciting competition."

The full running order for 12th June of 47 young songwriters is at <http://www.songacademy.co.uk/young-songwriter-2016-finalists/>. The young songwriters are from across London (Chelsea, Chiswick, Fulham, Wandsworth, Blackheath, West Hampstead, Hammersmith, Essex) Oxfordshire, Northern Ireland, Wiltshire, Manchester, Sheffield, Cheshire, Berkshire, Gloucestershire, Scotland, Bedfordshire, Kent, Dorset, Hampshire, Suffolk, Cumbria, Surrey, Lincolnshire & Leeds.

Rowena Atkins, Founder of Song Academy, says: "Here at Song Academy, we are aiming to give young people a voice, help them to express themselves and celebrate their individuality. We give them the opportunity to unleash their creativity and inspire them with what's possible. By connecting them to a vibrant community of their peers who all love writing original songs, as well as exposing their songs to key players in the Music Industry, we help to build young people's confidence and self-belief."



YAMAHA



Farida



access to music
the music college

For more information, visit: <http://www.songacademy.co.uk> or read Song Academy's spotlight blogs on each of the winners and hear the latest news on the Young Songwriter 2016 showcase on 12th June and the star guests planning to attend, via the Song Academy Twitter feed @SongacademyUK.

- Ends -

For further media information, photography, videos, interviews, etc., contact Rowena Atkins, Founder of Song Academy, Rowena@songacademy.co.uk 07710 023743.

Note to Editors*

Below is a list of the Judges of the Song Academy Young Songwriter Competition 2016, some of whom will be at Westfield on 12th June to hear their favourite finalists perform live:

Nicky Cox, editor of First News

Guy Fletcher OBE, award-winning songwriter/producer and Chairman of PRS for Music

Robert and Jo Garofalo, founders of Voice In A Million

Tim Laws, award-winning songwriter/producer

Barry Mason, award-winning songwriter/producer

Tom Odell, singer/songwriter

Lou Rhodes, singer songwriter and author

Rumer, singer/songwriter

Paul Stanborough, award-winning songwriter/producer

Jamie Theakston, TV and radio presenter

James Walsh, singer/songwriter

Eg White, award-winning songwriter/producer

Nigel Wright, award-winning songwriter/producer



YAMAHA



Farida



access to music
the music college