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YOUNG SONGWRITER COMPETITION 2017
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 AGED 8-18? WRITE YOUR OWN SONGS? ENTER AND GET YOUR SONGS HEARD
JUDGES INCLUDE:
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 | FRASER T SMITH | CONOR MAYNARD

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The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2017

Nurturing young songwriters and getting their songs heard

RULES & GUIDELINES

RULES

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2017 Competition is open to young people aged 8-18 years living in the UK and Ireland with a new international category for entrants outside of the UK and Ireland. Entrants are required to write a song about something that matters to them. To submit a song, all lyrics and music must be the entrant's own original work and must not infringe any copyrights or any other rights of any third parties. For the UK & Ireland entries the 8-12 year olds and 13-18 year olds entries will be judged separately. The Song Academy team will select the top ten finalists who will be judged by the main judging panel. The International entries will be judged as one group. The Song Academy team will select the top 3 finalists who will be judged by the main judging panel.

Entries to the competition can be submitted individually or in collaboration with friends, school class or family (entries with more than one participant must provide details of all participants on the entry form).

Each entrant may submit up to 5 songs (and 5 additional joint entries). A song entry must have a title and it is recommended that songs are written in a certain structure (an outline of song components is shown below). Songs must be under 4 minutes in duration. Entry costs £5 per song to cover administration costs.

All song entries must be recorded from start to finish, including all sections of the song. The accompaniment/music must be masterminded by the entrant/s, however can be played by family or friends if the entrant is unable to do so. The entrant must include who's playing each instrument in the recording, whether they've chosen anyone else to sing the vocals and whether they've had any help in the production of the song. The entrants can use songwriting apps such as GarageBand to create music.

Entrants don't need a professional recording as they will be judged on their originality, lyrics, melody, composition and potential to be a smash hit! However, a good recording can most certainly help to enhance the impact of your song (see the Song Academy blog posts on recording tips). Each age group of the competition will have a winner and 2 runners-up. The new International category will have a winner and 2 runners up.

Entries will be judged by an esteemed Song Academy Panel. Our 2017 Judging panel includes, Singer songwriters **Tom Odell, Imogen Heap, Rumer & Conor Maynard**, Grammy award & Ivor Novello winning songwriters/producers **Eg White, Fraser T Smith, Lyn Goddard** (songwriter and producer), **Jamie Theakston** (TV and radio presenter) and **Nicky Cox** (editor of First News).



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The judges' decisions as to the finalists and winners will be final and no correspondence will be entered into other than with the winners and runners up of the competition.

To help with the development of young songwriters, we also offer a service providing entrants with the opportunity of [receiving written feedback](#) from a music industry professional before entering their songs. A fee of £35 is payable per song for this constructive feedback on each song.

Entries are submitted via the Song Academy website. Entrants submit an entry form per song. There are two options for sending your song's audio recording. Option 1: Upload an MP3 file of the audio recording when sending your entry form. Option 2: Select the dropdown option of 'Soundcloud' on your entry form and after submitting your entry form send your song recording via SoundCloud. Steps to send your song via SoundCloud are: 1. Sign into your SoundCloud account 2. Search for Song Academy and follow us 3. Click the envelope to message us your song 4. Write your name, age group (8-12 or 13-18 years old) and song title in the message 5. Click on 'Add track' and search for your track 6. Press send.

The promoter of this competition is Song Academy Ltd of Windsong, Ferry Road, Hayling Island, PO11 0DG.

Copyright in all entries will remain with the entrants.

Song Academy may use the entrants' lyrics and recordings for promotional and publicity purposes. In submitting your entry you confirm that the entry is your own original work and agree to abide by the Rules of the competition. Entry in The Song Academy Young Songwriter competition constitutes permission to use the entrants' name and photo for promotional and publicity purposes on the Song Academy website and in publicity and promotional materials and press releases.

Entry in The Song Academy Young Songwriter competition constitutes permission to post all songs entered onto The Song Academy SoundCloud channel and Song Academy website and social media channels.

Song Academy Ltd will own the Copyright of the recordings for the winning entries at the recording studio winners day. The winners may share the recordings with friends and family, including via the internet, provided there is no commercial exploitation of the music or recording. Song Academy Ltd may use the recordings (including the music and lyrics) for promotional and publicity purposes, but will not (except as set out in the next paragraph) commercially exploit them.

The finalists and certain other highly commended entrants may be invited to enter into an agreement with Song Academy Ltd (the "Agreement") to have their song made available to consumers. Subject to the provisions of the Agreement, any sums received by Song Academy Ltd from such making available shall be shared with the applicable entrant.

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2017 showcase will be held in June 2017 in London.

The Voice In A Million show at Wembley Arena will be held in March 2018.

KEY DATES:

Entry deadline: 2 April 2017

Finalists announced: 23 April 2017 on www.songacademy.co.uk

Winners announced: 8 May 2017 on www.songacademy.co.uk

Winners recording studio day: The week of 15-19 May 2017 (tbc)

Young Songwriter 2017 showcase in London: 4 June 2017

Voice In A Million show at Wembley in March 2018

PRIZES

Prizes for UK and Ireland Entrants:

Winners of the 8-12 years old and 13-18 years old categories.

- Half day recording session with a top producer in London



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- Have a professional music video and professional photos
- Win a Focusrite Scarlett 2i2 Studio with Pro Tools
- Win a Farida guitar
- Win 4 tickets to Beautiful – The Carole King Musical in London
- Perform in our Young Songwriter 2017 showcase in London

The winner of the 8-12 year old category or the 13-18 year old category will be chosen to perform at Wembley Arena in the Voice In A Million show in March 2018.

The two runners up in each age group

The two runners up in each age group will win a Farida guitar.

Prizes for entries outside of the UK and Ireland:

The winner of the international category will receive a Focusrite Scarlett 2i2 Studio with Pro Tools

In addition, the UK and Ireland winners, top ten finalists and selected highly commended entrants will have their song released on the *SAYS 2017* compilation album and perform at the Young Songwriter showcase in June 2017 in London. The winner and 2 runners up of the International category will have their song released on the *SAYS17* compilation album.

SUGGESTED SONG COMPONENTS

Songs will be judged on their originality, lyrics, melody, composition and potential to be a smash hit! It is recommended that your song has the following components.

Introduction

— An opening passage, either instrumental or vocals without lyrics

Verse I

- Introduces the song's message
- Sets the scene
- 4 to 8 bars long

Pre Chorus

- Link between the verse and chorus
- Builds up both melodically and lyrically
- 2 or 4 bars

Chorus

- Main message of the song
- Catchiest part and most memorable part of the song (normally includes a 'hook')
- Most dynamic part of the song

Verse II — Continuing the explanation of the song

- Solidifying the message and introducing new imagery
- Lyrics change but melody stays the same as verse 1

Bridge or Middle Eight

- Is a contrasting section that brings the song to a new level
- Rhythmically and melodically the song changes
- Looking at the message from a different view point
- Can build up tension leading up to the climax of the song

Chorus — Repeat (can add hooks to the outro of it)

Outro — The closing passage. It can be instrumental or vocal



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BACKGROUND ON SONG ACADEMY

The Song Academy champions young people aged 7-18 and is nurturing the next generation of songwriters & creative leaders.

We give young people a voice and help them express themselves powerfully. We celebrate their individuality. We unleash their creativity and inspire them with what's possible. We also connect them to a vibrant community of their peers who love writing original songs, as well as exposing their songs to key players in the Music Industry.

Overall, we build young people's confidence and self-belief.

According to Myles Keller at PRS for Music we are "...a force for good."

The Song Academy runs after-school sessions, holiday workshops, school workshops, birthday parties and an annual nationwide Young Songwriter competition. As a result of our programmes, we have seen a direct correlation in the increase and advancement of confidence, self-esteem, creativity, motivation, well-being and technical songwriting ability in our members. More information is at <http://www.songacademy.co.uk>.

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