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YOUNG SONGWRITER COMPETITION 2017
HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO WRITE A SMASH HIT?
 AGED 8-18? WRITE YOUR OWN SONGS? ENTER AND GET YOUR SONGS HEARD
JUDGES INCLUDE:
 TOM ODELL | RUMER | IMOGEN HEAP
 | FRASER T SMITH | CONOR MAYNARD

ENTER BY 2ND APRIL #SAYS17
 GET READY & ENTER ONLINE AT www.songacademy.co.uk/says17

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CREATIVITY • COURAGE • INDIVIDUALITY • SELF EXPRESSION • INSPIRATION

For release on 31st January:

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2017 Competition

Nurturing young songwriters and getting their songs heard

Star-studded judging panel includes Tom Odell, Imogen Heap, Rumer, Conor Maynard, Eg White, Fraser T Smith, Lyn Goddard & Jamie Theakston

Now in it's 6th exciting year, from February 1st, the prestigious **Song Academy Young Songwriter Competition 2017** is officially open for entries from across the UK and Ireland with a new opportunity for international young songwriters.

We are starting our search for the UK & Ireland's top young songwriters. Could this be you?

If you're aged between 8 and 18 and love writing your own original songs, then enter our Young Songwriter competition before the 2nd April 2017 for the opportunity to:

- Get noticed by some of the best British songwriters & key players in the Music Industry
- Have your voice heard and stand out from the crowd
- Record your winning song with a top producer in London
- Have a professional music video and professional photos
- Win a Focusrite Scarlett 2i2 Studio with Pro Tools
- Win a Farida guitar
- Perform in our Young Songwriter 2017 showcase in London
- Perform at Wembley Arena in the Voice In A Million show
- Win 4 tickets to Beautiful – The Carole King Musical in London
- Get connected to our vibrant community of young songwriters

This year's panel of prominent music industry judges includes:

Singer songwriters Tom Odell, Imogen Heap, Conor Maynard and Rumer, Grammy award & Ivor Novello winning songwriters/producers Eg White, Fraser T Smith & Tim Laws, Lyn Goddard (songwriter and producer), Jamie Theakston (TV and radio presenter) and Nicky Cox (editor of First News).

Watch our Young Songwriter 2017 trailer video now at www.songacademy.co.uk/says17



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Competition details:

We're seeking raw songwriting talent so there's no need to enter professional recordings. Songs will only 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).

This competition will be separately judged for 8-12 year olds and 13-18 year olds and a separate category for international entries. Each entrant may enter up to 5 songs and an additional 5 joint entries. The deadline to enter the competition is 2nd April 2017. The entry fee is £5 per song to cover administration costs.

We can help you get your songs ready

Take advantage of our song feedback service where we provide insightful comments on the three areas of lyrics, melodies/composition and production. Send your songs via <http://www.songacademy.co.uk/expert-song-feedback/>

For more information, please visit www.songacademy.co.uk/says17

Tom Odell, Singer Songwriter

"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. I can't wait to hear the songs!"

Myles Keller, PRS for Music

"PRS for Music is delighted to be supporting the Song Academy Young Songwriter competition once again. 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. We wish all the nominees the very best of luck with the competition."

Giles Orford, Focusrite

"We are delighted to be a partner of an organisation dedicated to making it easier for our singer-songwriters of the future to make music"

Comments from some of our past Young Songwriter finalists:

"Ultimately we are offered a life changing experience with the Song Academy Young Songwriter competition every year." **Gilska**

"Being a self confessed bedroom musician the Young Songwriter competition has given me the opportunity to take my songs into the real world" **Laura**



“Not only do professionals hear my music, but there's also a lot I can learn from the other young songwriters around me.” **Bella**

“It encourages young people to believe in themselves.” **Roman**

“I like how it is focused on songwriting and not particularly vocal or instrumental talent, especially in this day and age, where that's a critical factor for success. But if you can write a hit, it's arguably more impressive than if you can sing one, and I think this competition shows that.” **Sam**

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Who are we? A Song Academy overview

The Song Academy champions young people aged 8-18 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 song-writing ability in our members. More information is at <http://www.songacademy.co.uk>.

www.songacademy.co.uk
contact@songacademy.co.uk
07710 023743

Testimonials from judges and partners:

Naughty Boy, producer & songwriter

"Young songwriters are the future of music. A great song will always stand the test of time far beyond our years. I think this competition is important because every songwriter I've worked with was always waiting to be discovered"

Eg White, award-winning songwriter/producer

"Normally upon listening to the results of a songwriting competition, what comes across is how the competitors are trying to write commercial sounding music or impress with their cleverness or catchiness, but listening to these songs, I just really enjoyed the music, and could actually feel the people behind the songs, which has to be pretty close to the whole point of writing!"

Fraser T Smith, award-winning songwriter/producer

"I've always been amazed at the quality and variety of the songs from the Song Academy competitions - they give young, aspiring songwriters the goal to get their best song finished, recorded and out there, as well as providing a real platform to getting their music heard. It's a great opportunity. We've been working with Orla O'Neil already since she won the 13-18 category in 2014, and she's developing into a fantastic writer."

Rumer, singer songwriter



"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."

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London

"I am an avid supporter of activities that enable young people to nurture their musical talent, such as the Song Academy's Young Songwriter competition. It's a fantastic opportunity for aspiring tunesmiths up and down the country to showcase their songs to music industry insiders. I wish all the young musicians that have taken part the very best as they develop their chosen careers."

Nicky Cox, editor of First News

"I was so impressed by the standard of the entries and know that Britain's musical future is in safe hands."

Tom Robinson, from BBC Introducing and BBC 6 Music

"It was most impressive to hear young writers singing or rapping about their own lives without any outside input or help from adults. It bodes well for the future of music in this country."

Ed Vaizey, Government Minister for Creative Industries

"I am impressed and delighted by the outstanding young talent which Song Academy has discovered across the UK. This leading competition ensures that every child has the opportunity to be heard by music industry professionals and live their dream. Song Academy's fresh approach is set to enrich music education in the UK."

Jamie Theakston, Heart FM

"I support anything that encourages children to find their way into the world of music, especially something like Song Academy which requires no formal training and their emphasis is on fun and self-expression."



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