

THE YOUNG SONGWRITER 2018 COMPETITION

Nurturing young songwriters and getting their songs heard

Is open for entries!

CREATIVITY • COURAGE • INDIVIDUALITY • SELF EXPRESSION • INSPIRATION

RULES & GUIDELINES

RULES

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2018 Competition is open to young people aged 8-18 years both living in the UK & Ireland and 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. International entries will be judged across all ages 8-18 years old. The Song Academy team will select the top ten 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 4.5 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. 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 category will have a winner and 2 runners-up.

All entries will be judged on the three key criteria shown below to select the top finalists songs. As well as the S factor – is it a sensational song!

Lyrics: Demonstrates both technical and artistic competency, highlighting emerging originality. Material is imaginative and technically accomplished with rhyme, meter & creative language.

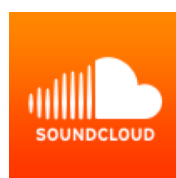
Melody: Compliments the chord progression and other surrounding musical characteristics. Melodic content demonstrates variety by using range, rhythm and pitch effectively. Demonstrates the ability to write functional harmonic progressions that complement the melodic content. The melody is memorable.

Chords: Harmonic progressions are balanced and provide a sufficient amount of interest throughout the song in relation to the other musical components.

Entries will be judged by an esteemed Song Academy Panel. Our 2018 Judging panel includes, Singer songwriters **Tom Odell, Imelda May & Lucie Silvas**, songwriters & producers **Guy Chambers** (for Robbie Williams, Tom Jones, Kylie Minogue, & Mark Ronson), **Eg White** (Adele, Duffy, Take That, Pink), **Tim Laws** (Gabrielle, Lighthouse Family), **Jessica Sharman** (for Ward Thomas), **Nicky Cox** (editor, First News) and **Nigel Elderton** (Chairman, PRS for Music).



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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 2018 showcase will be held on Sunday 10th June 2018 at Westfield, London.

KEY DATES:

Entry deadline: 8 April 2018

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

Winners announced: 14 May 2017 on www.songacademy.co.uk

Winners recording studio day: (tbc)

Young Songwriter 2017 showcase in London: Sunday 10 June 2018

PRIZES

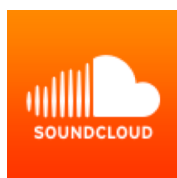
Prizes for UK and Ireland Entrants:

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

- Half day recording session with a top producer in London
- Receive a professional music video and professional photos from the recording session
- Win a Focusrite Scarlett 2i2 Studio audio interface



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- Win a sE Electronics X1S Studio Bundle
- Win a SoundCloud Pro Unlimited subscription for one year
- Perform in our Young Songwriter 2018 showcase in London
- Win 4 tickets to Beautiful – The Carole King Musical
- Win a Tinc big boom stand n speaker

The two runners up in each age group

The two runners up in each age group will win a sE Electronics V7 microphone and Tinc goodies.

Prizes for entries outside of the UK and Ireland:

The winner of the international category will receive a Focusrite Scarlett 2i2 Studio Audio Interface and a sE Electronics X1S Studio Bundle. In addition a Tinc big boom stand n speaker

In addition, the UK and Ireland winners, top ten finalists and selected highly commended entrants will have their song released on the *SAYS 2018* compilation album and perform at the Young Songwriter showcase on 10th June 2018 in London. The winner and 2 runners up of the International category will have their song released on the *SAYS18* 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

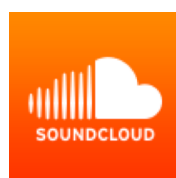
- Is a contrasting section that brings the song to a new level
- Rhythmically and melodically the song changes
- Looking at the message from a different view point
- Can build up tension leading up to the climax of the song

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

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.

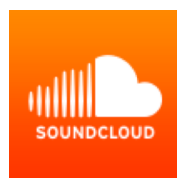
We believe we have a unique concept which focuses on the hearts and minds of young people, giving them the tools and platform to express themselves and have their voices heard. We celebrate their individuality. We unleash their creativity and inspire them with what's possible. We also connect them to 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. Our focus is on the love of songwriting rather than the love of fame.

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
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