

# THE YOUNG SONGWRITER 2018 COMPETITION

*Nurturing young songwriters and getting their songs heard*

## Winners Announced!

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**#SAYS18 #StrengtheningMentalHealth #Community #Songwriting**

*Star judges including, Tom Odell, Guy Chambers, Imelda May,  
Eg White, Lucie Silvas & Nigel Elderton choose the Young Songwriter 2018 Winners*

The winners of the hotly contested Song Academy Young Songwriter (SAYS) 2018 competition are revealed today and will perform live in front of family, friends and the general public at Westfield, Shepherd's Bush, London on Sunday 10th June, from 2pm to 5pm, alongside the UK & Ireland finalists and highly commended entrants. A number of the judges will be at this Young Songwriter 2018 showcase to watch their favourites perform live.



### **This year's panel of award winning judges 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), Nigel Elderton (Chairman, PRS for Music) and Toby Davies (head of Trinity College Rock & Pop).

The panel were looking for interesting and original lyrics melodies and compositions which were engaging, believable and courageous, showing the powerful art of songwriting to touch, move and inspire.

**The winner of the 8-12 year old category is Zoe Efstathiou** with her song 'All She Has To Do'. 2<sup>nd</sup> place was awarded to Mia Bran's song 'City' and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Skye Bishop's song 'Soaring'.

**The winner of the 13-18 year category is Isabella Weinstein** with her song 'Bad Boy'. 2<sup>nd</sup> place was awarded to Katie Kittermaster's song 'T-Shirt' and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Oscar Welsh's song 'Way You Move'.

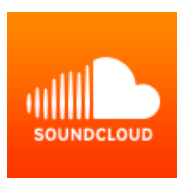
**The winner of the International category is Kevin Jones** with his song 'Clara'.

The prestigious Song Academy Young Songwriter competition has gone from strength to strength since it's launch in 2012 and is now the leading songwriting competition for young people aged 8 to 18 across the world with a strong sense of community. 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. The 2018 competition attracted close to 500 high quality entries cities across the world, from London, Dublin, Cairo, Helsinki, Johannesburg, Nashville, New York, Reykjavik, Zagreb to Melbourne.

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



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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."

Guy Chambers, songwriter & producer said "It's a huge pleasure to be a part of this years judging panel for the Song Academy Young Songwriter 2018. I have always been a supporter and nurturer of young talent, so it will be great to see what this year's competition has to offer. Good luck."

Imelda May, singer songwriter said "I'm very glad to be part of The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2018 judging panel. Good songwriting is the foundation of all good music. This competition is also simply a great way for songwriters to meet other like minded people and I'm happy to encourage anyone to connect and excel in this beautifully expressive art form and cannot wait to hear the songs."



The full running order for the 10th June Young Songwriter 2018 showcase of 35 young songwriters is at [songacademy.co.uk](http://songacademy.co.uk). The young songwriters performing are from across London (Barnet, Brent, Chelsea, Edgware, Fulham, Hammersmith, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington, Kingston, Richmond), Banbury, Bournemouth, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Haslemere, Hayling Island, Jersey, Lincoln, Liverpool, Manchester, Tunbridge Wells, Saxmundham, Sunderland, Swindon and Winchester.

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 powerfully 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, self-belief and drive to achieve their potential."

For more information, visit: [www.songacademy.co.uk](http://www.songacademy.co.uk) or read Song Academy's spotlight blogs on each of the winners and finalists and hear the latest news on the Young Songwriter 2018 showcase on Sunday 10th June and the star guests planning to attend, via the Song Academy Twitter feed @SongacademyUK.

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For further media information, photography, videos, interviews, etc., contact Rowena Atkins, Founder of Song Academy, [Rowena@songacademy.co.uk](mailto:Rowena@songacademy.co.uk) 07710 023743.

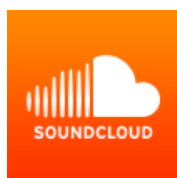
#### Note to Editors\*

Below is a list of the Judges of the Song Academy Young Songwriter Competition 2018, some of whom will be at Westfield on 10th June to hear their favourite finalists perform live:

Keith Ayling, singer songwriter/educator  
Nicky Cox, editor of First News  
Guy Chambers, award-winning songwriter/producer  
Sophie Daniels, head of songwriting at ICMP  
Toby Davies, head of Trinity College, Rock & Pop  
Nigel Elderton Chairman of PRS for Music  
Jo Garofalo, co-founder of Voice In A Million  
Tim Laws, award-winning songwriter/producer  
Barry Mason, award-winning songwriter/producer  
Imelda May, award-winning songwriter/producer  
Tom Odell, award-winning singer/songwriter  
Jessica Sharman, award-winning songwriter  
Simon Barber & Brian O'Connor, team behind Soderjerker,  
Lucie Silvas, award-winning singer songwriter  
James Walsh, award-winning singer songwriter  
Eg White, award-winning songwriter/producer



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## 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.

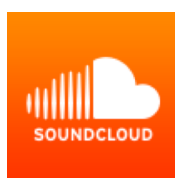
We believe we have a unique concept which focuses on the hearts and minds of young people, giving them the tools and platform to express themselves powerfully, have their songs heard and be part of a vibrant community of peers and leaders in the Music industry. We celebrate young people's individuality, unleash their creativity and inspire them with what's possible. Overall, we build young people's confidence, self-belief and drive to achieve their potential. 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 <https://www.songacademy.co.uk>.

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