



THE YOUNG SONGWRITER 2019 COMPETITION

1st February to 31st March

Inspiring young people to express themselves & get their songs heard

CREATIVITY • COURAGE • INDIVIDUALITY • SELF EXPRESSION • INSPIRATION • RESILIENCE

RULES & GUIDELINES

RULES

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2019 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 minutes in duration. Entry costs £10 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 and their available sounds.

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/producers **Tom Odell, Imelda May, Chris Difford, Rumer, Dan Gillespie Sells, Eg White** (Adele, Duffy, Take That, Pink), **Emily Philips** (Rizzlekicks, John Newman, Maddison Beer, SOAK), **Miranda Cooper** (Girls Aloud, Sugababes, Pet Shop Boys, Alesha Dixon), **James Walsh, Tim Laws** (Gabrielle, Lighthouse Family), **Jessica Sharman** (Ward Thomas), **Nicky Cox** (editor, First News) and **Nigel Elderton** (Chairman, PRS for Music).

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 19 Heathman's Rd, Fulham, London SW6 4TJ.

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 via The Young Songwriter 2019 Album.

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2019 showcase will be held on Saturday 22nd June at The Tabernacle, Notting Hill, London.

KEY DATES:

Entry deadline: 31 March 2019

Finalists announced: 3 May 2019 on www.songacademy.co.uk

Winners announced: 22 June on www.songacademy.co.uk

Winners recording studio day: (tbc)

Young Songwriter 2019 showcase in London: Sunday 22 June 2019

PRIZES

Prizes for UK and Ireland Entrants:

UK & Ireland 8-12 year old category

A Scarlett 2i2 Studio Pack (including microphone and headphones, along with the interface)

A half day recording studio session with leading producer Paul Stanborough

Professional music video and photos from recording session

Casio Music's CT-x3000 portable keyboard

sE Electronics X1S studio bundle

Signed Tom Odell 'Jubilee Road' Album

Signed copy of Carole King's book 'A natural Woman'



Play in the SAYS19 Young Songwriter showcase & 10th anniversary of Song Academy

UK & Ireland 13-18 year old category

A complete home studio setup, including 2 x KRK RP4 studio monitors & Focusrite A 2i2 studio pack (interface, headphones and microphone)

A half day recording studio session with leading producer Paul Stanborough

Professional music video and photos from recording session

Casio Music's CT-x5000 portable keyboard

sE Electronics X1S studio bundle

Signed Tom Odell 'Jubilee Road' Album

Signed copy of Carole King's book 'A natural Woman'

Play in the SAYS19 Young Songwriter showcase & 10th anniversary of Song Academy

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:

A Scarlett 2i2 Studio Pack (including microphone and headphones, along with the interface)

A sE Electronics X1S Studio pack.

Casio Music's CT-x3000 portable keyboard

Signed Tom Odell 'Jubilee Road' Album

Signed copy of Carole King's book 'A natural Woman'

All winners and finalists will be included in The Young Songwriter 2019 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

BACKGROUND ON SONG ACADEMY

Who are we? A Song Academy overview

Founded 10 years ago, Song Academy inspires and nurtures the next generation of songwriters & creative leaders. We are a unique platform for young people (aged 8-18) to express themselves, be heard and be part of an exciting community.

Our uniqueness is that we focus on the creative process of **songwriting** – writing powerful lyrics and composing interesting melodies & instrumental parts. We develop songwriters' skills to write a song that touches, moves and inspires people – either hit songs with mass appeal or for a niche audience. In young people's demanding, fast-paced and technological lives, Song Academy offers a refreshing space where they can express their thoughts, fears, excitements, disappointments, and opinions in a safe, encouraging environment. A space where they feel listened to and can contribute to others, enabling them to build a strong mental health and create their own future.

Song Academy runs after-school clubs, holiday workshops, school workshops, birthday parties and an annual international 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 of our members. More information is at <https://www.songacademy.co.uk>

Website: www.songacademy.co.uk

Twitter: [@songacademyUK](https://twitter.com/songacademyUK)

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