



THE YOUNG SONGWRITER 2020 COMPETITION

THE PLATFORM FOR YOUNG SONGWRITERS

Express Yourself & Be Heard

1st February to 31st March 2020

Star Judges include Tom Odell, Imelda May, Chris Difford, Miranda Cooper & Janet Devlin

RULES & GUIDELINES

RULES

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2020 Competition is open to young people aged 8-18 years (i.e. 8 years to under 19) 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 £10 per song to cover administration & judging 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 2020 Judging panel includes, Singer songwriters/producers **Tom Odell, Imelda May, Chris Difford, Dan Gillespie Sells, Janet Devlin, Harley Alexander-Sule, Eg White** (Adele, Duffy, Take That, Pink), **Sacha Skarbek** (James Blunt, Miley Cyrus, Adele, Jason Mraz, Duffy), **Paul Adam** (Dannii Minogue, Amy MacDonald and A&R Director at Island Records), **Emily Philips** (Rizzlekicks, John Newman, Maddison Beer, SOAK), **Miranda Cooper** (Girls Aloud, Sugababes, Pet Shop Boys, Alesha Dixon), **James Walsh** and **Nicky Cox** (editor, First News).

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 audio recordings. Option 1: Upload an MP3 file of the audio recording when sending your entry form. Make sure your audio file is titled 'your song title_your name' Option 2: Select the dropdown option of 'Soundcloud' on your entry form and after submitting your entry form send your song recording via SoundCloud. Make sure your audio file is titled 'your song title_your name' 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, entry category (8-12, 13-18 years old in UK/Ireland or international) 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 2020 Album.

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2020 showcase will be held on Saturday 20th June at The Tabernacle, Notting Hill, London.

KEY DATES:

Entry deadline: 31 March 2020

Top 30 finalists announced: 22 April 2020

Top 10 finalists announced: 3 May 2020 on www.songacademy.co.uk

Top 3 finalists announced: 2 June on www.songacademy.co.uk

Winners recording studio day: (tbc)

Winners announced and The Young Songwriter 2020 showcase in London: Saturday 20 June 2020

WINNERS' PRIZES

Prizes for the UK and Ireland categories:

UK & Ireland 8-12 year old category

A half day recording session with the top producer in London

Professional music video and photos from recording session

Scarlett Solo Gen 3 Studio Bundle

Yamaha prize

Cubase Artist music software



Signed Tom Odell 'Jubilee Road' Album

The winner & selected finalists will perform at our Young Songwriter 2020 showcase at The Tabernacle, Notting Hill, London on Saturday 20 June *

UK & Ireland 13-18 year old category

A half day recording session with the top producer in London

Professional music video and photos from recording session

Scarlett Solo Gen 3 Studio Bundle

Yamaha prize

Cubase Pro music software

Signed Tom Odell 'Jubilee Road' Album

Filming of live session with Dawsons Music

The winner & selected finalists will perform at our Young Songwriter 2020 showcase at The Tabernacle, Notting Hill, London on Saturday 20 June *

* For the avoidance of doubt, all entrants performing at The Young Songwriter 2020 showcase need to pay for their travel costs.

Prizes for the International category

Scarlett Solo Gen 3 Studio Bundle

Yamaha prize

Cubase Artist music software

Signed Tom Odell 'Jubilee Road' 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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