



THE YOUNG SONGWRITER 2021 COMPETITION

HELPING EVERY CHILD FIND THEIR VOICE

Express Yourself & Be Heard

1st February to 31st March 2021

*Star Judges include Fraser T Smith, Tom Odell, Miranda Cooper, Calum Scott,
Tom Grennan, Michelle Escoffery, Chris Difford, & Janet Devlin*

RULES & GUIDELINES

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2021 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. The 8-12 year old and 13-18 year old entries will be judged separately. The Song Academy team will select the top 30 finalists for the UK & Ireland 8-12 year old category, the top 30 finalists for the UK & Ireland 13-18 year old category, the top 15 finalists for the International 8-12 year old category and top 15 finalists for the International 13-18 year old category. These finalists' songs will be judged by the Song Academy young ambassadors who will select their top 10 finalists for the UK & Ireland 8-12 year old category, the top 10 finalists for the UK & Ireland 13-18 year old category, the top 5 finalists for the International 8-12 year old category and top 5 finalists for the International 13-18 year old category. These top finalists chosen by the Song Academy team and young ambassadors 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. Songs must be under 4.5 minutes in duration. The Song Academy team have written some tips on what makes a great Young Songwriter competition entry on the Song Academy blog. 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 Soundtrap and their available sounds. Entrants can't use pre-recorded loops in loop libraries. They can record their own loops within their song.

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. **This year's panel of award winning judges includes: Fraser T Smith** (Stormzy, Dave, Adele, Drake, Sam Smith), **Tom Odell**, **Chris Difford**, **Tom Grennan**, **Michelle Escoffery**, **Calum Scott**, **Hannah V**, **Calum Scott**, **Dan Gillespie Sells**, **Harley Sule** (Rizzle Kicks), **Janet Devlin**, **Eg White** (Adele, Duffy, Take That, Pink), **Sacha Skarbek** (James Blunt, Miley Cyrus, Adele, Jason Mraz, Duffy), **Paul Adam** (Dannii Minogue, Amy MacDonald & A&R Director at Island Records), **Emily Philips** (Rizzle Kicks, John Newman, Maddison Beer), **Miranda Cooper** (Girls Aloud, Sugababes, Pet Shop Boys, Alesha Dixon), **Starsmith** (Ellie Goulding, Lady Gaga, Jess Glynne, Paloma Faith), **Simon Aldred** (Sam Smith, Rag'n'Bone Man, Avicii) and **Iain Archer** (Bugg, Sea Girls, Lisa Hannigan, Liam Gallagher, James Bay, Snow Patrol, Niall Horan).

The judges' decisions as to the finalists and winners will be final.

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 social media platforms and in publicity and promotional materials and press releases. Official sponsors of The Young Songwriter 2021 have permission to use the entrants' lyrics and recordings in their promotions supporting The Young Songwriter 2021 competition. Official sponsors of The Young Songwriter 2021 have permission to contact the winners of The Young Songwriter 2021 competition for interviews, including creating video content of the winners' performing their winning songs. For the avoidance of doubt, all content created by official sponsors of The Young Songwriter 2021 competition will be used to promote their involvement with The Young Songwriter 2021 competition.

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 2021 Album.

KEY DATES

Entry deadline: 31 March 2021

Top 30 finalists announced: 19 April 2021

Top 10 finalists announced: 30 April 2021 on www.songacademy.co.uk

Top 3 finalists announced: 1 June 2021 on www.songacademy.co.uk

Winners recording studio day: (tbc)

Winners announced: 19 June 2021

The Young Songwriter 2021 showcase at The Tabernacle, Notting Hill, London on Saturday 13 November 2021

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

£1,000 SRP of Yamaha equipment

Signed Tom Odell 'Jubilee Road' Album

The winner & selected finalists will perform at our Young Songwriter 2021 showcase at The Tabernacle, Notting Hill, London*

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

£1,000 SRP of Yamaha equipment

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The winner & selected finalists will perform at our Young Songwriter 2021 showcase at The Tabernacle, Notting Hill, London*

* For the avoidance of doubt, all entrants performing at The Young Songwriter 2021 showcase need to pay for their travel costs.

Prizes for the International category: 8-12 year old and 13-18 year old categories each receive

Scarlett Solo Gen 3 Studio Bundle

£1,000 SRP of Yamaha equipment

Signed Tom Odell 'Jubilee Road' Album

HOW TO CONTACT SONG ACADEMY

Website: www.songacademy.co.uk

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

Facebook: [SongAcademyUK](https://www.facebook.com/SongAcademyUK)

Instagram: [song_academy](https://www.instagram.com/song_academy)

Email: contact@songacademy.co.uk

Tel: 07710 023743

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