



THE YOUNG SONGWRITER

2024 COMPETITION

FIND YOUR VOICE, FIND YOUR TRIBE

1st February to 31st March 2024

RULES & GUIDELINES

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2024 Competition is open to young people aged 8-22 years (i.e. 8 years to under 23) 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 online entry form will be on the Song Academy website at www.songacademy.co.uk/SAYS24 from the 1st February to 31st March 2024. Entrants submit an MP3 recording, lyrics and what inspired them to write their song.

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 £45 is payable per song for this constructive feedback on each song.

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. Each song entry mp3 file must be under 10mb. 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 in English. 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).

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.

Each category will have a winner, 2nd place and 3rd place.

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.

The Song Academy team will select the top 30 finalists for each category - the UK & Ireland 8-12 year olds, UK & Ireland 13-15 year olds category, UK & Ireland 16-18 year olds, UK & Ireland 19-22 year olds, International 8-12 year olds, International 13-18 year olds and International 19-22 year olds. These finalists' songs will be judged by the Song Academy team, Song Academy young ambassadors and a selection of other professional songwriters who will select their top 10 finalists for each category. These top 10 finalists in each category will be judged by the main judging panel.

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

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 2024 have permission to use the entrants' lyrics and recordings in their promotions supporting The Young Songwriter 2024 competition. Official sponsors of The Young Songwriter 2024 have permission to contact the winners of The Young Songwriter 2024 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 2024 competition will be used to promote their involvement with The Young Songwriter 2024 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 2024 Album.

KEY DATES

Open for entries on 1st February 2024. Entries close on 31st March 2024 at midnight GMT.

Top 30 finalists announced on 21st May 2024

Top 10 finalists announced on 11th June 2024

Top 5 finalists announced on 16th July 2024

Live Showcase on Saturday 21st September 2024 with announcement of winners

Online Showcase on Sunday 22nd September 2024 with announcement of winners

Release of The Young Songwriter 2024 album in October 2024

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)

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