



THE YOUNG SONGWRITER 2025 COMPETITION

FIND YOUR VOICE, FIND YOUR TRIBE

1st February to 31st March 2025

RULES & GUIDELINES

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2025 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/says25/ from the 1st February to 31st March 2025. Entrants submit an MP3 recording, lyrics and what inspired them to write their song. Each child entrant needs to have the permission of an adult to enter the competition.

To help with the development of young songwriters, we also offer a service providing entrants with the opportunity of [receiving written feedback on their songs](#) from a music industry professional before entering their songs. A fee of £55 is payable per song for this constructive feedback on each song (discounted from £70 during the competition period).

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 £15 per song to cover administration & judging costs.

SAYS25 has 7 categories for young people worldwide: UK/Ireland 8-12 year olds, UK/Ireland 13-15 year olds, UK/Ireland 16-18 year olds, UK/Ireland 19-22, International 8-12 year olds, International 13-18 year olds and International 19-22 year olds.

You determine the age group by how old you are on the day you enter your song into the competition. If you co-wrote a song with a friend in an older age group, please enter this song in the older age group. If you wrote a song and have a friend in an older age group playing an instrument/singing then please enter this song in your age group.

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.

Usage of sample libraries, including Splice is fine for production purposes. However, no vocal samples allowed. If sampling records and original works used for production ideas, the sample needs to be cleared by the rights holder, ie the Record company of the artist being sampled or the artist themselves if un-signed. It would be best to avoid sampling other people's intellectual property wherever possible as we are looking for original song writing and ideas.

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, 13-15, 16-18, 19-22 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 13-15 year olds and International 16-18 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 2025 have permission to use the entrants' lyrics and recordings in their promotions supporting The Young Songwriter 2025 competition. Official sponsors of The Young Songwriter 2025 have permission to contact the winners of The Young Songwriter 2025 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 2025 competition will be used to promote their involvement with The Young Songwriter 2025 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 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 2025 Album.

Prizes of The Young Songwriter 2025 competition include the following (*the recording session will be arranged at a time convenient for the winners & Song Academy. Focusrite, Shure and IK Multimedia will aim to send winners prizes within 2-4 weeks of the winners' announcement*):

UK Category 8-12 and 13-15 year old category winners

A half day recording session with a top producer in London

Legendary Shure SM58 + new MVX2U interface

Focusrite Scarlett Solo Gen 4 Studio Bundle + Novation Launchkey Mini

One year membership of The Song Academy mentoring programme, Ad Lib. for the 13-15 years old category winner

The winner & selected finalists will perform at our Young Songwriter 2025 showcase at The Tabernacle, Notting Hill, London on Saturday 4th October 2025

UK Category 16-18 and 19-22 year old category winners

A half day recording session with a top producer in London

Legendary Shure SM58 + new MVX2U interface

Focusrite Scarlett Solo Gen 4 Studio Bundle + Novation Launchkey Mini

One year membership of The Song Academy mentoring programme, Ad Lib. for the 16-18 years old category winner

The winner & selected finalists in the 16-18 years old category will perform at our Young Songwriter 2024 showcase at The Tabernacle, Notting Hill, London on Saturday 4th October 2025. Finalists of the 19-22 years old category will perform at a different showcase on the 19th September (venue to be announced shortly)

International category, 8-12, 13-18 and 19-22 winners

Focusrite Scarlett Solo Gen 4 Studio Bundle + Novation Launchkey Mini

Legendary Shure SM58 + new MVX2U interface

One year membership of The Song Academy mentoring programme, Ad Lib. for the 13-18 years old winner

The winner & selected finalists will perform at our Young Songwriter 2025 online showcase on Sunday 5th October 2025

KEY DATES

Open for entries on 1st February 2025. Entries close on 31st March 2025 at midnight GMT.

Top 30 finalists announced on 20th May 2025

Top 10 finalists announced on 10th June 2025

Live Showcase on Saturday 4th October 2025 with announcement of winners of the 8-18 years old categories

Live Showcase on Friday 19th September 2025 with announcement of winner of the 19-22 years old category

Online Showcase on Sunday 5th October 2025 with announcement of winners

Release of The Young Songwriter 2025 album in October 2025

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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