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The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2016

Express yourself and get noticed for your songwriting talents!

RULES & GUIDELINES

RULES

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2016 Competition is open to young people aged 7-18 years living in 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 7-12 year olds and 13-18 year olds entries will be judged separately.

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 3 songs (and 3 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 £5 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. The entrants can use songwriting apps such as GarageBand to create music.

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](#) post on recording tips). Each age group of the competition will have a winner and 2 runners-up.

Entries will be judged by an esteemed Song Academy Panel. Our 2016 Judging panel includes, Singer songwriters **Tom Odell, Rumer, Lou Rhodes, James Walsh**, Grammy award & Ivor Novello winning songwriters/producers **Eg White, Fraser T Smith, Guy Fletcher, Nigel Wright & Barry Mason, Lyn Goddard** (songwriter and producer), **Jamie Theakston** (TV and radio presenter) and **Nicky Cox** (editor of 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 and either upload a mp3 file audio recording or send a message via SoundCloud with their song. Steps to send your

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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 (7-12 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 66 Winchendon Road, London, SW6 5DR.

Copyright in all entries will remain with the entrants. Song Academy may use the entrants' lyrics and recordings for promotional and publicity purposes. Copyright in the recordings for the winning entries will remain with Song Academy Ltd. 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. Subject to the provisions of the Agreement, any sums received by Song Academy Ltd from such making available shall be shared with the applicable entrant.

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2016 showcase will be held in June 2016 at Westfield, Shepherds Bush, London.

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 finalists' and winners' 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.

KEY DATES:

Entry deadline: 9 April 2016

Finalists announced: 25 April 2016 on www.songacademy.co.uk

Winners announced: 8 May 2016 on www.songacademy.co.uk

Young Songwriter 2016 showcase at Westfield, Shepherds Bush, London: June 2016

PRIZES

The prizes outlined below will be awarded to the winner of the 7-12 years old and 13-18 years old categories.

The winners of the Song Academy Young Songwriter Competition 2016 will record their winning songs at a recording studio in London with a top producer.

The winners will also win a professional photo shoot with **John Cassidy**, *The Headshot Guy*. Plus win a Yamaha reface concept keyboard, a Farida guitar and win 4 tickets to Beautiful – The Carole King Musical in London. In addition, the winners and selected finalists will have their song released on the *SAYS 2016* compilation album and perform at Westfield London in June 2016.

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

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— 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

The Song Academy champions young people aged 7-18 and is nurturing the next generation of songwriters & creative leaders.

We give young people a voice and help them express themselves powerfully. We celebrate their individuality. We unleash their creativity and inspire them with what's possible. We also connect them to a vibrant community of their peers who love writing original songs, as well as exposing their songs to key players in the Music Industry.

Overall, we build young people's confidence and self-belief.

According to Myles Keller at PRS for Music we are "...a force for good."

The Song Academy runs after-school sessions, holiday workshops, school workshops, birthday parties and an annual nationwide 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 in our members. More information is at <http://www.songacademy.co.uk>.

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