



THE ASHBURNHAM ENGLISH SONG AWARDS 2024

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS: TUESDAY 19 MARCH 2024 at
The Music Studios, 29 Marylebone Lane, London W1U 2NQ.

FINAL: THURSDAY 16 MAY 2024 at Ashburnham Place, Battle, East Sussex TN33 9NF.
APPLICANTS MUST BE FREE TO ATTEND ON BOTH THESE DATES.

Southeastern trains run from Charing Cross to Battle Station.
Transport from Battle Station and accommodation (if required) in private homes will be provided for Finalists on the night of 16th May. Transport to Battle station will be provided on the morning of 17th May.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024.

AWARDS

SINGER'S FIRST PRIZE in memory of Molly Townson £1000

PIANIST'S FIRST PRIZE in memory of Hope Gosse £500

In 2024 additional prizes will include:

An AUDIENCE PRIZE of £250

BEST DUO PRIZE of £500 to be shared equally between the best duo in recognition of the importance placed on the collaboration between a singer and their pianist.

It is possible for finalists to win more than one of these prizes.

RULES

- (1) The second year of this competition for singers and their collaborative pianists is open to persons of any nationality who, on **1 March 2024**, are resident in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland and who are in or have completed their 4th year of an undergraduate course at a recognised conservatoire or music college in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.
- (2) All singers and pianists must be **32 years of age or under on 16 May 2024**.
- (3) The decision of the Trustees regarding eligibility shall be final and the Trustees reserve the right to accept or refuse any application.
- (4) The decision of the Jury is final and not open to discussion or correspondence.

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- (5) Candidates are responsible for their travel and subsistence costs to attend the Preliminary auditions in London. Finalists are responsible for their travel costs to Battle but will be offered transport from Battle Station to Ashburnham Place and will, if required, be offered accommodation in private homes for the night of 16 May. Further details of these arrangements will be made available to Finalists nearer the time.
- (6) Applicants selected for the Final following the Preliminary auditions accept that their performance in the Final will be recorded and agree to be available for possible photography and interviews on the afternoon of 16 May, and that parts of their performance and/or images may be used by the Trustees on social media platforms, on the Awards' website.
- (7) The Trustees reserve the right to make any changes to the arrangements for the Competition in the event of a significant change in circumstances or a national emergency.
- (8) Applicants are responsible for providing copies of all music for the Judges at both stages of the competition.

REPERTOIRE

PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS

Candidates should present two contrasting songs from the **English Song** repertoire. Details of these must be submitted on the Application Form. One of these songs may be repeated in the programme for the Final, although this is not essential. The jury will include Dame Felicity Lott.

FINAL

Finalists are required to present a **themed programme of English Song** which must not exceed twenty (20) minutes in length. The full details of the themed programme must be supplied by Finalists to the Secretary by 19 April 2024.

The Ashburnham English Song Awards place enormous value on the words set to music and the judges will place as much value on a simple English folk song as some of the more sophisticated song repertoire. Applicants **are encouraged to explore the wider reaches of the repertoire**, particularly for the Final.