



THE ASHBURNHAM ENGLISH SONG AWARDS 2025

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS including video:
FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on **MONDAY 17 MARCH 2025** at:
1901 Arts Club, 7 Exton Street, Waterloo, London SE1 8UE

VIDEO APPLICATIONS

Singers and pianists who are not living or studying in the London region and are therefore unable to attend the London auditions in person, may send their audition video to secretary@aesawards.co.uk

Videos must have been recorded within the last 6 months.

FINAL

The Final will be held on: **WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2025** at Ashburnham Place, Battle, East Sussex TN33 9NF.

APPLICANTS MUST BE FREE TO ATTEND ON THIS DATE.

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 21 May. Transport to Battle station will be provided on the morning of 22 May.

AWARDS

SINGER'S FIRST PRIZE in memory of Molly Townson £2000
SINGER'S RUNNER UP PRIZE £1000
PIANIST'S FIRST PRIZE in memory of Hope Gosse £1000
PIANIST'S RUNNER UP PRIZE £500
AUDIENCE PRIZE for Best Singer £250
It is possible for finalists to win more than one of these prizes.

RULES

- (1) This competition for singers and their collaborative pianists is open to persons of any nationality who, on **28 February 2025**, 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 21 May 2025**.
- (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.
- (5) 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 21 May. Further details of these arrangements will be made available to Finalists nearer the time.
- (6) Applicants selected for the Final accept that their performance in the Final will be recorded and agree to be available for possible photography and interviews on the afternoon of 21 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 18 April 2025.

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.