



# THE ASHBURNHAM ENGLISH SONG AWARDS 2026

## INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS including video:  
FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2026**

### PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on **TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026** 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](mailto:secretary@aesawards.co.uk)

**Videos must have been recorded within the last 6 months.**

### FINAL

The Final will be held on: **WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2026** at our prestigious new venue:  
Abbot's Hall, Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex.

**APPLICANTS MUST BE FREE TO ATTEND ON THIS DATE.**

Southeastern trains run from Charing Cross to Battle Station which is a short walk from Battle Abbey School.

### AWARDS

SINGER'S FIRST PRIZE in memory of Molly Townson £3000

SINGER'S RUNNER UP PRIZE £1500

PIANIST'S FIRST PRIZE in memory of Hope Gosse £1500

PIANIST'S RUNNER UP PRIZE £750

AUDIENCE PRIZE for Best Singer £400

## RULES

- (1) This competition for singers and their collaborative pianists is open to persons of any nationality who, on **20 February 2026**, are resident in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland and who are in or have completed their 4<sup>th</sup> 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 27 May 2026**.
- (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.
- (6) Applicants selected for the Final accept that their performance in the Final may be recorded and agree to be available for possible photography and interviews on the afternoon of 27 May, and that parts of their performance and/or images may be used by the Trustees on social media platforms and 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.

### FINAL

Finalists are required to present a **themed programme of English Song** which must not exceed fifteen (15) minutes in length. The full details of the themed programme must be supplied by Finalists to the Secretary by 17 April 2026.

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.