

A SONG FOR SOPHIE AWARD 2026

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

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1. GENERAL

a. Organisation

The West Australian Music Industry Association Inc. (WAM) organises and produces WAM Song of the Year, an annual, original songwriting competition, promoting the talents of songwriters resident in Western Australia, inviting writers to submit recordings of original musical compositions. WAM Song of the Year aims to reveal, promote and support West Australian songwriters across many genres and facilitate career opportunities.

b. Acceptance

Participation in 'A Song for Sophie' and WAM Song of the Year implies complete acceptance of the present Terms and Conditions, the renunciation of any recourse concerning the conditions of organisation and the running of the event, its results, and the attribution of prizes as well as the decision of the jury or WA Music, which will be final and without appeal.

c. About the Award

- i. 'A Song for Sophie' is possible thanks to the Sophie Smith Fund, held with the Fremantle Foundation;
- ii. The award is incorporated into WAM's annual Song of the Year Awards;
- iii. The opportunity to enter the award is open to all Song of the Year entrants aged 25 and under;
- iv. The recipient of the Award will receive a \$2500 cash prize to fund their development as an artist, and an exclusive mentoring program with a renowned WA based artist;
- v. The mentorship will be a total of 32 hours over a 12-month period. It is the mentor and recipients' responsibility to organise the mentoring sessions and how this time is distributed;
- vi. Each year the program will run for 12 months in alignment with the end of the Song of the Year Awards;
- vii. Songs entered for consideration must have been written or released between March 2025, and February 2026.
- viii. WAM, Sophie Smith's family and the Fremantle Foundation will do quarterly check-ins with the mentor and artist to evaluate the progress of the mentorship;
- ix. As this award is in honour of Sophie Smith and her passion for lyricism and the written word. Entrants must describe why they should be considered for this award in alignment with Sophie's passions.

d. Entries – Submissions

- i. 'A Song for Sophie' is exclusively open to residents of Western Australia (WA);
- ii. 'A Song for Sophie' is exclusively open to local songwriters aged 25 or under. Should a band consisting of songwriters both over and under 25 wish to apply, the band is only eligible if majority of the songwriters are aged 25 or under.
- iii. Songs which include collaborations, will not be considered for this award;
- iv. All songwriters involved in writing a song entered into 'A Song for Sophie' must have been based in WA for the majority of the previous 12 months. Entrants who aren't current residents of WA, or Australian citizens can enter songs for 'A Song for Sophie' entries provided they have spent the majority of the past 12 months in WA. For electronic music, vocal parts can be recorded by performers outside of WA, however the vocal melody and lyrics must be composed entirely by the WA songwriter/s;
- v. The song must be the original work of the songwriter/s;

- vi. The songwriters/entrants must have permission from all rights holders associated with their song entry/s including samples (including but not limited to; songwriters, labels, publishers etc.) and by entering the competition provide permission for WAM to use and/or reproduce these songs in any way WAM sees fit to implement and/or promote the WAM Song of the Year competition
- vii. Entries which compromise WAM's obligations to its principal sponsors will not be considered;
- viii. All copyrights remain the property of the songwriters/copyright owners. No contestant may infringe upon existing copyrights and in submitting their song the contestant agrees that The West Australian Music Industry Association Inc. (WAM) is not held responsible for any such infringement which may occur, and will indemnify WAM against any legal action which may arise as a result of such breaches of copyright;
- ix. A song entry that was nominated in the previous year's Song of the Year, cannot be nominated or be a prize-winner of the current edition;
- x. Previous winners of this category will not be considered again;
- xi. Instrumental music will not be considered for this award, as it is an award honouring and developing lyricism;
- xii. All fees associated with WAM Song of the Year are non-refundable and non-transferable;
- xiii. All entrants agree to have their work/s made available to third parties in order to carry out the project and satisfy program sponsors;
- xiv. All entries must be songs that have been written or released between March 2025, and February 2026.
- xv. WAM reserves the right to exclude entries based on content, such as inappropriate content on violence, race, sexuality or gender.
- xvi. WAM's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into. WAM accepts no responsibility for lost, late, stolen, damaged, disqualified or misdirected entries. WAM reserves the right to authenticate entries and to disqualify any entrant.
- xvii. Strictly one entry per artist is permitted. Any artist entering more than once will not be considered for the award.

e. Judging

All eligible entries will be considered and shortlisted to a top 10 by WAM staff, before being put to a judging panel. The judging panel will consist of Sophie Smith's Family, a Fremantle Foundation Representative and the mentoring artist.

- i. Entries landing in the judges top 5 will be notified of their success.
- ii. The recipient of the award will be announced at the Song of the Year awards night.
- iii. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the outcomes of judging decisions.

2. NOMINEES & PRIZE-WINNERS

a. Category Nominees & Winners

- i. Reasonable efforts will be taken to inform entrants that they have been shortlisted and/or selected for the award;
- ii. The cash prizes will be paid after the WAM Song of the Year Awards Night, with WAM providing further instructions via email closer to the time;
- iii. WAM will facilitate an online introduction between the mentoring artist and the recipient of the award, following the Song of the Year Awards night;
- iv. Following the initial introduction between the mentoring artist and the recipient, WAM holds no responsibility for organising mentoring sessions. The time, date and location will be organised between the mentor and recipient.
- v. WAM reserves the right to substitute the mentor or amend the prize of the award without notice.
- vi. In agreeance with the Smith Family and the Fremantle foundation, all parties including the mentor and recipient, will have regular catch ups to discuss the process within the mentorship.
- vii. Entrant's song/s may be made available for download for promotional purposes to media outlets only. To opt out of this term, entrants must notify WAM in writing. Entrants who do not opt out will have their work available for private downloads for media promotion purposes only (including but not limited to radio airplay, song reviews etc).

viii. All category nominees will be asked to provide a photo and bio for promotional use and will be considered for media opportunities relating to the event.

ix. WAM Song of the Year is a songwriting competition. Therefore, the songwriters may be credited as the finalists/winners. In the case of all members of a band being the songwriters, the band name will be credited as the finalists/winners. Please list all songwriters accurately and in full and make sure the “Act Name” and “Song Title/s” are correct in your application form;

x. Prize-winners will be announced at the Awards Night;

xi. Artists who perform at the WAM Song of the Year Awards will be selected from the competition’s nominees pool.

xii. The State Library of Western Australia are seeking to document all nominees for the Song of the Year competition in their archive. To opt out of this arrangement, you must notify WAM in writing. If you do not opt out or notify WAM by the end of the competition, your nominated work/s may be entered into The State Library of Western Australia’s archive.

Xiii. All prizes must be claimed within 12 months of the event date, unless otherwise arranged with both WAM and the respective prize sponsor. This includes all category cash prizes, studio prizes and prizes pertaining to the Grand Prize, Runner Up and Second Runner Up categories.

3. SUBMISSIONS

a. How to Enter

Entries are open at **9am on the “open date”** and close **at 9am on the “closing date”** (unless extended).

Only online entries will be accepted via the WAM Song of the Year Platform.

i. Entrants are required to describe why they should be considered for this award based on the included prompt.

ii. Songs sung in languages other than English must have an English translation (where possible).

iii. Strictly one entry per artist is permitted. Any artists attempting multiple entries, will not have their application considered.

iv. i. o not enter songs with featuring artists, as the song will not be considered.

v. WAM cannot provide advice regarding which song entrants should enter for consideration.

b. Pricing

Entries into the ‘A Song for Sophie’ Award are free of charge.