

What is the BaySounds Songwriting Competition?

Get ready to strut your musical stuff in the BaySounds Songwriting Competition, proudly presented by BayFM and SAE!

Whether you're a rhyming rookie or a seasoned stage sensation, BaySounds could be your ticket to the next phase of your musical journey. We're all about celebrating the undiscovered abilities and infectious rhythms of local artists, and we can't wait to showcase your songwriting skills to the Northern Rivers and beyond.

Take your talents to the next level and let your music do the talking with the BaySounds Songwriting Competition!

1. What is an independent artist?

An artist that is not signed to a record label, management company or publisher.

2. I release my music through my own label, can I still enter?

If you release and distribute solely your own music (i.e. no other artists), you are considered an independent artist, and you are eligible to enter BaySounds Songwriting Competition.

3. What is the prize?

The lucky winner of the BaySounds Songwriting Competition will have their original song recorded and mastered at SAE by final year Audio Engineering students in the state-of-the-art recording studio through the amazing SSL Duality or Neve analogue desk (winner must be available to record in September 2024).

You'll also have the opportunity to perform at the SAE Open Day on Saturday 17 August 2024. featuring an outside broadcast on BayFM 99.9 and four weeks of guaranteed airplay rotation on BayFM.

Your recording session and Open Day performance will both be filmed for promotion on BayFM and SAE's social media platforms to showcase your talents even further.

4. Are there different categories?

No. All genres are accepted, but must be able to be performed live. This does not include DJs or instrumentals.

5. Can I upload my instrumental?

Unfortunately, we cannot accept instrumentals for this competition.

6. Can I have another vocalist sing the song I wrote?

Yes, but the vocalist, and any other instrumentalists, need to be available for the performance day, if you win the competition.

7. Do you accept songs in languages other than English?

Yes. If your song is in a language other than English, please include the lyrics with translation (and transliteration, if applicable).

8. Does my song have to be an original song?

Yes, your song must be original. No covers of previously released songs, parodies, or spoof songs will be accepted.

9. Can I enter my original song that has already been released?

Yes, as long as it was released between 1 January 2023 and 16 June 2024.

10. Is there a time limit for the song I enter?

Yes. Your song must be a minimum of 90 seconds and a maximum of five minutes.

11. What are the recording criteria?

- a. All submissions must be uploaded to a downloadable cloud-based storage (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive). Your track must be a high-resolution **MP3 360kbps mp3** file &/or **16bit/44.1kHz wav**. Along with your track you must include your bio; 100 words on what your song is about and what it means to you; song lyrics; an image of you and the band; and your artist/band name. Please ensure this is submitted via a cloud-based storage service (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox) and please ensure it is downloadable.
- b. All submissions **MUST** also include streaming links (e.g. SoundCloud, Bandcamp) or smartURL/ Linktree link with all streaming links connecting to the song. **DO NOT** send a link to an entire LP album or EP. It must **ONLY** be the song you are entering into the competition. Voice memos will not be accepted.
- c. Please make sure the file name clearly shows your name and the song title separated by a – dash (-). For example, John-Doe-Best-Song-in-the-World.mp3 or Tamar-Levy-Better-song-than-his.wav
All entries must include written lyrics.

11. When is the deadline to enter the BaySounds Songwriting Competition?

Applications open Wednesday 24 April 2024 at 5pm and close Sunday 16 June 2024 at 5pm.

12. Can I enter my song(s) if I live outside NSW Northern Rivers?

Unfortunately not. BaySounds will only accept songs from artists who live in the following council areas:

- Tweed
- Byron Bay
- Ballina
- Clarence Valley
- Richmond Valley
- Lismore
- Kyogle.

14. Are there age restrictions?

Yes. Entrants must be 16 years old, or older, on or before 31 December 2023. If you are under 18, your parents or guardian will need to sign the application form.

15. How many original songs can I enter?

There is no limit to the number of songs you can enter.

16. How long should my bio be?

100 words. See the application for more details.

17. Does my photo need to be professionally taken?

No. However, the more effort you make to represent yourself in the best and most accurate way, the better!

18. Who are the judges?

- Dirk Terrill, Senior Lecturer, Audio & Music SAE
- Nathan Kaye, host of BayFM Living Your Arts Off
- Ange Kent, host of BayFM Northern Rivers Music Box.

19. Do you accept CDs?

No. All songs must be uploaded via the BaySounds Songwriting Competition website.
<https://sae.edu.au/baysounds/>

20. Do I need a social media profile to submit entries?

No, but it helps BSC to get an idea of who you are. You can provide these details on your application form. Don't worry - we don't care about how many followers you have on socials!

21. If I win, what dates do I need to be available?

1800 SAE EDU / SAE.EDU.AU

ANIMATION/ AUDIO/ CREATIVE INDUSTRIES/ DESIGN/ FILM/ GAMES/ MUSIC/

The winner of the BaySounds Songwriting Competition will need to be available on Saturday 17 August to play at the SAE Open Day and BayFM Outside Broadcast. You will also need to be available in the month of September for the first prize recording package which will be organised by SAE.

22. Will BaySounds notify me when my entry has been received?

Yes, we will notify you via email to confirm that your entry has been received.

23. Will BaySounds notify me about the progress of my application?

No, this will remain a surprise until the winner is announced!

24. I have entered my song, what happens next?

Sit back and chill out! The winner will be announced on BayFM's local music show, Northern Rivers Music Box on Friday 26 June 2024 at 5pm. In the meantime, listen to BayFM's Living Your Arts Off Mondays from 9am, and Northern Rivers Music Box Friday's 4pm, as your entry may get airplay.

25. How and when will the winner be announced or notified?

The winner will be announced on BayFM's local music show, Northern Rivers Music Box on Friday 26 June 2024 at 5pm. The winner will also be notified by email.

26. Will BaySounds give feedback on my song entry?

No.

27. Can I enter songs that have been entered into other songwriting competitions?

Yes.

28. Do I have any specific instructions for how to submit my song?

See Question 11 for details.

29. Does entering this competition give permission for BayFM to play my song on radio?

Yes.

30. Should my song be submitted to a performing rights royalty organisation like APRA?

It is highly recommended, but not compulsory.

31. What are the requirements for the eligibility for teenagers?

See Question 14 for details.

32. Does BaySounds own my song once I've entered it?

No. You own the copyright to your song, including performance rights.

33. May I enter a song that I wrote if the rights are owned by a publisher or label or management company?

No.