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Full Competition Rules

- 1) Entry to the Lichfield Arts Song Writing Competition is open to anyone resident in the UK.
- 2) Song entries will be in the Folk genre ('folk' being defined in the widest sense, encompassing both traditional and contemporary styles).
- 3) Songs should consist of the contestant's own work and should not infringe any copyrights or any other rights of third parties.
- 4) Songs may have multiple co-writers:
 - a) All co-writers' names and ages should be entered on the entry form
 - b) If any co-writer is aged 19 or older on 1 Sept 2018 the song will not be entered into the Under-19 category.
- 5) Entrants may submit a maximum of 2 songs for the competition, with a maximum song duration of 5 minutes.
- 6) Entry to the competition is £5.00 per song for entrants aged 19 years or older on 1 Sept 2018, and free to entrants aged 18 or under on that date. (Note that entry fees will be used to fund competition prizes and administration of the competition.)
- 7) Submitted songs should not have been commercially released, or be planned for release before L2F 2018.
- 8) Entries can be made via any common recorded medium (e.g. mp3, cd, wav file, sound cloud, etc.). Entrants must check audio files and links before entry to ensure they play correctly.
- 9) Lichfield Arts will not be able to return 'hard' submissions (CDs, Memory Sticks, etc.), nor will the judges give feedback to songs which are not shortlisted.
- 10) Songs will be judged based on composition. The quality of performance, vocals and production is not taken into consideration
- 11) Entrants for the Under-19 category:
 - a) Should be aged under 19 on 1 Sept 2018, and if shortlisted, may be asked to provide proof of age
 - b) Entries who are under 18 will need to provide contact details of a parent/ guardian, and if shortlisted for the prize, will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult at any public events/performances.

- 12) Entrants will be shortlisted during the summer of 2018, and final judging will take place following live performances of the shortlisted songs at the Lichfield Festival of Folk (L2F) on Sunday 21st October.
 - a) Entrants will need to agree that if shortlisted, their song will be performed on stage at L2F 2018, by either the songwriter or their representative(s)
 - b) If the songwriter is unable to find representatives to perform the song, Lichfield Arts will aim to find local musicians to perform the song
 - c) In order to manage the event for shortlisted entries at L2F 2018, there will be a maximum of 5 performers for each song and performers should be prepared, within reason, to 'plug and play'
 - d) The whole performance should be performed live at L2F 2018 (i.e. not with a reliance on backing tracks).
- 13) The judging panel will determine an overall winner for the prize, and an additional award for best song from the Under-19 category (if this is not the overall winner).
 - a) The prize will be announced and awarded following the shortlisted performances at L2F 2018
 - b) There will be a cash prize of £150 for the overall winner, and recording studio facilities will be made available to record the winning song
 - c) There will be a cash prize of £50 for the winner in the Under-19 category (if this song is not the overall winner)
 - d) All prizes are non-transferable and will be awarded to the first name on the entry form. In the case of co-writers the fair division and distribution of prizes amongst writers is the responsibility of the winners.
- 14) Entrants should understand that a live recording of shortlisted songs may be made at L2F 2018, and will be subsequently promoted on the Lichfield Arts website and as a CD on a non-profit basis.
 - a) Entry in the competition constitutes permission to use shortlisted entrants' names, likenesses, recordings and videos for promotion and publicity purposes
 - b) Entrants retain full song ownership rights and all copyrights to songs submitted.
- 15) All shortlisted entrants will be invited to take part in a song writing workshop/masterclass with the internationally acclaimed John Tams, Patron of L2F, with the aim of further developing song writing, performance and promotional skills.

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- 16) The judges' decisions are final and binding, and entrants agree by entering the competition to accept and abide by the judges decisions.
- 17) By participating in the contest entrants agree to be bound by these rules and any subsequent published revisions of these rules and by the decisions of Lichfield Arts which are final in all matters relating to the contest.