

Cincinnati *song*SLAM Team Rules

Online Voting Opens: January 12, 2023 | 7:00PM ET

Live Event: January 14, 2023 | 7:00PM ET

Liberty Exhibition Hall (Northside, Cincinnati)

The fourth Sparks & Wiry Cries Cincinnati *song*SLAM is a unique opportunity for composer/performer teams to premiere new art songs and compete for cash prizes in partnership with Cincinnati Song Initiative. All teams must be available to record their song in Cincinnati on *either* December 4 or 11 (specific schedule to be determined after teams are registered).

Up to twelve teams will each present a single new song no longer than five minutes for voice and piano in any language. The voting audience—in the poetry slam tradition—will then vote on their favorites and award a total of \$2,000 in prize money. Don't miss this fun event that engages both performers and audience members equally and brings great new songs into the world!

Cincinnati *song*SLAM Rules:

1. Registration is \$20 and opens on Tuesday, October 11th, 2022, at 6pm ET on a first-come-first-served basis and will close when full. Registration historically fills up in under 60 minutes, so be ready to go with your team's information!
2. Registration will be open to include up to 12 teams, with up to 5 additional alternate slots in the event of cancellations.
 - Teams who do not successfully register in time to at least be an alternate will have their application fee refunded in full.
 - While those on the alternate list will not have their fee refunded, they will have the choice to either stay on the list or be taken off, in which case their fee will also be refunded.
3. Original compositions presented at the 2023 Cincinnati *song*SLAM must:
 - Be composed for voice and piano.
 - Feature texts that are in the public domain or have written and signed permission from the author/trust.
 - Receive their world premiere at this event.
4. Songs should be 5 minutes in length or less.
5. A composer can only submit **one** song for the event. Performers can only perform in **one** song for the event. However, the composer **may** be the pianist or singer. If your team would like to include your poet, that is acceptable, and they **may** be the pianist or singer as well.
6. Texts may be in any language. Be advised that if your registration is successful, you will need to obtain permission from your poet, or from the trust of the poet if deceased, to use in your

premiere before the event begins with online voting on January 12th, 2023 if your text is not already in the public domain.

7. There is no age limit for those who wish to apply.
8. Prizes are awarded by the online *and* live audiences, who will vote through an online text-to-vote donation system. \$1 donated = 1 vote. At the end of the live *songSLAM* on January 14, \$2,000 in cash prizes will be awarded in two categories:
 - The top two teams garnering votes **from the most individual voters** receive \$600 and \$400, respectively.
 - The top two teams **garnering the most votes (dollars raised)** receive \$600 and \$400, respectively.
9. Further prizes may be granted at the discretion of the Co-Artistic Directors of *Sparks & Wiry Cries*, including but not limited to: online publication and sales of winning songs, hosted through *Sparks & Wiry Cries*' website; and possible inclusion in a *songSLAM* song book published through New Music Shelf. Please note, regardless of premiere, publication, and recording, *Sparks & Wiry Cries* nor any partner institution will ever claim ownership of the music premiered at any *songSLAM*. The rights to the premiered works will remain solely with the Artistic Team that applied, and they can further decide how to divide any assets. Sparks **may** ask for permission from the entire team to use the recording in their promotional materials.
10. Composers must be present during the live *songSLAM* on January 14, 2023, but do not need to be present at the December recording session (unless they are their team's pianist or singer, as well.)

Teams are encouraged to invite their friends and share the event as widely as possible, as all prizes will be awarded by audience vote.

Further guidelines for the December recording sessions:

1. In a 30-minute session, teams will be allowed up to three takes of their piece for the professional audio and video engineer; they will be sent the three takes promptly afterward, from which they choose one to officially enter into the *songSLAM*.
2. Ohio State and CDC guidelines will be followed to ensure a safe experience for all artists.
3. Teams will be able to download and freely share their professional recording after the conclusion of the *songSLAM*, but both *Sparks & Wiry Cries* and Cincinnati Song Initiative reserve the right to use the recordings in promotional materials.